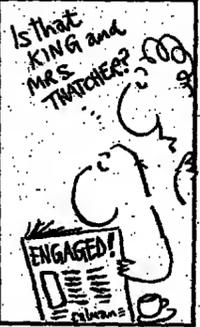


BA chairman confident of sale this year

British Airways could still be privatized before the end of the year, Lord King of Warratby, the chairman, said yesterday after what he described as a "very friendly and constructive" meeting with the Prime Minister.



Lord King leaving Downing Street after yesterday's meeting with Mrs Thatcher.

Mitterrand to name Right premier today

In an unexpected statement from the Elyse Palace on television last night, President Mitterrand announced that he would name a new Prime Minister today, and that he or she would come from the ranks of France's new Right-wing majority.

Palace is silent on wedding rumours

Buckingham Palace yesterday continued to maintain a discreet silence in the face of a mounting frenzy of speculation over the possible announcement of an engagement between Prince Andrew and Miss Sarah Ferguson.

Speaker prevents bid to name vicar

The Speaker last night blocked an attempt in the Commons by Mr Geoffrey Dickens, the campaigner against child abuse, to name a vicar in a Parliamentary question, a Humberside vicar accused of sexually assaulting a boy.

Tomorrow Budget special

The Times contains comprehensive coverage of today's Budget, with eight pages of news and analysis of the Chancellor's proposals, together with background comment and interpretation from expert business and city writers led by Kenneth Flett

Britain wins its court fight on EEC budget

Britain yesterday won an injunction at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg blocking extra spending in the EEC budget voted for by the European Parliament.

Pope will visit Rome synagogue

Rome (Reuters) - The Pope will visit Rome's synagogue next month in what Vatican sources said would be a landmark in Catholic-Jewish relations.

Sterling is firm on Budget eve

The pound and share prices held up well on the eve of today's Budget, which is expected to herald an early move towards cheaper borrowing.

Palme murder hunt charge

Blood will flow on Stockholm's streets. Police are questioning Mr Gunnarsson's acquaintances and are understood to be investigating his possible links with the right-wing European Workers' Party, which has its headquarters in Wiesbaden, West Germany.

Across the net

Chris Evert Lloyd on Martina Navratilova

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize of £4,000 - double the usual amount because there was no winner on Saturday - was won yesterday by Mrs M Crookshank of Saltash, Cornwall. Portfolio list, page 24; how to play, information service, page 20.

Mail jobs go

Associated Newspapers, owners of the Daily Mail and Mail on Sunday, announced a £130 million switch to new technology, involving an initial 20 per cent cut in staff.

Howe warning

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, warned the West not to be taken in by Moscow's "spectacularly attractive" plan for nuclear disarmament.

Legendary hero of Arab Legion dies

March 1, 1956, the young King Hussein unexpectedly dismissed him and gave him two hours to leave the country, declaring that he had failed to advance enough Arab officers.

Dismay over Land Rover negotiations

Mr David Andrews, who is leading the management buy-out bid for Land Rover, complained last night that there had been no meetings in the past week to take the negotiations forward.

As well as being one of the most comprehensive and competitively priced private health schemes available, WPA is also the easiest to understand.

WPA advertisement with logo and text: 'As well as being one of the most comprehensive and competitively priced private health schemes available, WPA is also the easiest to understand. There are no complicated costings for you to work out with your financial director, no intricate bandings. Just a simple statement of what your company pays and what it buys you.'

Joseph suffers tomato barrage from students

Police used umbrellas to shield Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, from a hail of tomatoes, orange peel and drink cartons at a university demonstration yesterday.

WPA advertisement with logo and text: 'As well as being one of the most comprehensive and competitively priced private health schemes available, WPA is also the easiest to understand. There are no complicated costings for you to work out with your financial director, no intricate bandings. Just a simple statement of what your company pays and what it buys you.'

Whooping cough vaccine goes on trial in test case

A test case claim that a whooping cough vaccine left Johnnie Kinnear, aged 16, with "catastrophic" brain damage when he was 14 months was launched in the High Court yesterday.

The hearing, expected to take up to six months, was the first of its kind in England; it had considerable public importance, Mr Justice Priest, QC, said.

There were hundreds of other claims awaiting the outcome and there had been "considerable disquiet in the public mind for some time and also in the mind of the medical profession, on the safety of the vaccination".

Mr Priest, counsel for the boy, told Mr Justice Stuart-Smith that the vaccine called Trivax or Trivax/AD, "intended to protect him against the three diseases of childhood, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus", had disastrous results.

The family blames the administration of the vaccine at a west London clinic in Febru-

ary 1971 for the "disastrous and quite catastrophic" brain damage he suffered.

The boy is cared for by his parents at their home in Shepherd's Bush, west London, and the action is being brought on his behalf by Mr Michael Kinnear, his father.

The first issue to decide was whether the vaccine could ever cause brain damage, Mr Priest said.

The second was whether on the facts of the case the boy's catastrophe was due to the negligence of those who administered the vaccine.

Mr Kinnear is seeking damages against Dr Joshua Stein, who administered the vaccine at the clinic in Becklow Gardens, Hammersmith, west London, and the North West Thames Regional Health Authority responsible for the clinic. Both deny negligence.

Actions against the Department of Health and Social Security for not issuing warnings about the dangers of the vaccine, and the Wellcome

Foundation which produced it, have been discontinued.

Mr Priest said that at the time the boy was vaccinated he was suffering from a feverish cold and that should have been taken into consideration. He did have an oral immunization for polio at the same time, "but it is not alleged that played any part in the disaster that befell him".

It was not part of their case to determine any risk-benefit ratio. "We are not here to prove how often serious neurological damage occurs. We are here to prove that it sometimes occurs and that it occurred in Johnnie's case," he said.

Mr Priest said that, although both sides in the case agreed that no vaccine was completely safe, there was a dispute over the degree of risk.

"The search for safety strongly suggests that the present vaccine is not safe and it has been discontinued in use in Sweden, parts of Germany and certainly in Japan."

The hearing continues.

The class of 25 is full of culture



Multicultural is the key word for these pupils, aged seven, from Hallfield Junior School in Bayswater, central London.

The class of 25 pupils share 24 languages and 52 nationalities are represented among the school's 240 pupils.

Mr Colin Pickles, the headmaster, is proud of his "United Nations" and believes that a diversity of cultures

creates a rich environment for his students.

"No one group dominates so they all get on like a house on fire and take great interest in each other's customs," he said.

The nationalities (and dialects) represented are:

Front row L to R: Colombia, The Philippines, The Netherlands, Malaysia, Pakistan.

Second row: Syria, Eritrea, India (Tamil), Bulgaria, Egypt, Portugal.

Third row: Saudi Arabia, Italy, US, Spain, Seychelles (Creole), India (Hindi), Sri Lanka (Sinhalese).

Back row: Hong Kong (Cantonese), Jamaica (English), Algeria, France, Jordan, Morocco (Berber), Greece.

(Photograph: Ros Drinkwater)

Society to study report on solicitor

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Law Society is investigating the case of a solicitor who is being sued by a former client, the Iranian state shipping line, for allegedly accepting a "secret commission or bribe" of £133,300.

The solicitor, Mr Peter Jonathan Denby, is the nephew of Sir Richard Denby, a former president of the Law Society, and his partner in the law firm of Denby and Co, of St Mary Hill, London EC3.

The two went into partnership after Mr Denby was "dismissed" by his six former partners because of the Iranian action. The partners took High Court action to recoup the costs of the dissolution of their old firm, Lloyd Denby Neal, and have been awarded a six-figure sum in costs in an out-of-court settlement.

An official from the Law Society's professional purposes department said Mr Denby's case would be referred to an outside solicitor who would be asked to report.

The professional purposes committee would then decide if the case was serious enough to warrant a referral to the solicitors' disciplinary tribunal, with its powers to fine, suspend or strike off.

Mr Denby denies the allegations and will strenuously resist the Iranian claim, due to come before the courts in the next few months.

The Law Society will also inquire into the reasons why Mr Denby has not held a practising certificate for the past two years. According to his solicitor, Mr Michael Cook, a member of the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal, it is because of an "administrative error". He had now applied for one with Mr Cook's as one of the two needed signatures.

The Iranian action arises from a dispute between the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines and Greek ship owners over the chartering of certain ships and delays in cargo delivery.

The dispute was settled two years ago when the Iranians agreed to pay £2.5 million compensation. According to the writ issued against Mr Denby, he received £133,300 as a "secret commission or bribe" from the Greek ship owners' agent for helping to arrange the settlement.

More care urged for schizophrenia

The Government should provide better care for the quarter of a million people who suffer from schizophrenia, Mrs Dorothy Silberston, vice-chairman of the National Schizophrenia Fellowship, said yesterday.

She said that patients with the illness were being released into the community without proper facilities for their care.

She told the fellowship's national seminar in Oxford on "The forgotten illness" that it would be better to retain the old, large Victorian mental hospitals, rather than go along with the radical care in the community programme being pushed forward by many health authorities.

She said the Department of Health and Social Security was failing to fulfil its promise to provide special hostels, adjoining hospitals, where long-term schizophrenics could be cared for.

There were only 48 places available in such hostels throughout England and Wales.

She said the popular image of the Victorian mental hospital building was one of dreadful conditions where patients were locked away.

She said: "That is not our experience of the mental hospitals. We don't like the long corridors and shabby rooms any more than anyone else, but at the same time they are run by dedicated staff who understand the problems."

Mrs Silberston called on the Government to make sure that hospitals provided proper care for schizophrenics when they were discharged into the community.

"We feel that the rundown of the mental hospitals has to be stopped because we see no alternative for some of the most severely affected sufferers."

Dr John Hall, principal clinical psychologist at the Warneford Hospital, Oxford, said that the level of schizophrenia among university students was underestimated.

Couple get inquest on cot death

A couple who lost four babies in seven years and became the focus of a cot death controversy were granted an application by a High Court judge yesterday for a new inquest into the death of their fourth child.

Mr Justice McCullough quashed an open verdict returned by an inquest jury at Wrexham in November 1984 and ordered a second inquest under another coroner.

He said he would not state his reasons immediately because he did not wish to cause any hurt through careless phrasing.

Mrs Virginia Bithell, who was accompanied by her husband David, both aged 33, said they were delighted and relieved by the ruling. But on the advice of their solicitor they declined to make any further comment.

The case arose after the death of their son Adam, aged seven months at his home at Clarence Road, Wrexham, in August 1984.

Presenting the application, Mr Gareth Williams, QC, submitted that the South Cwyd coroner, Mr John Hughes, had misdirected the jury and that there had been an inadequate analysis with a faulty review of the evidence. In particular, Mr Hughes had not invited the jury to consider a verdict of death by misadventure.

Dr Donald Wyle, a Home Office pathologist, had told the inquest that the baby died of cardiac respiratory failure owing to suffocation.

However, Professor Hugh Johnson, of St Thomas's Hospital, who conducted a second post-mortem examination at the family's request, said in evidence at the time that he could not support Dr Wyle's conclusions.

The baby spent the first six months of his life in a special care unit at Leicester Royal Infirmary because a daughter and two sons born to Mrs Bithell between 1977 and 1982 had died within eight weeks of birth.

Their deaths were attributed to sudden infant death syndrome, a mysterious ailment which kills about 1,200 babies in Britain every year. Three weeks after leaving the hospital, however, the fourth child was also dead.

Mrs Bithell said at the time that the baby had been examined regularly at home by a doctor and a health visitor.

Satanists 'plotted bank blackmail'

Satanists hatched a blackmail plot to trap a bank manager who had sexual intercourse with a woman customer, the "Satan conman" trial was told yesterday.

They wanted Derry Mainwaring Knight to blackmail the manager who had been secretly tape-recorded by the woman, Maidstone Crown Court was told.

Mr Randle Mainwaring, a retired bank director who is unrelated to Mr Knight, said Mr Knight asked him if the bank manager would be dismissed if the sex claim was made public.

Mr Knight said the woman had wanted a loan, but the manager would agree only if they had sexual intercourse. He later forced his way into her bedroom.

"The Satanists were trying to persuade the defendant,

either personally or through his lady friend, to use blackmail as a means of obtaining money so he could buy satanic regalia," Mr Mainwaring said.

Mr Mainwaring said he was "incredulous" at Mr Knight's "dastardly manoeuvre".

Mr Mainwaring, aged 73, said he first met Mr Knight at a Bible discussion group meetings at his house in Newick.

Mr Knight had "an amazing knowledge of the Bible" and would contribute serious comments, but never spoke about Satanism.

Mr Knight, aged 46, of Dormans Land, Surrey, denies 19 charges of obtaining more than £200,000 by deception from committed Christians.

He claims that he used the money to buy satanic insignia to free himself from the control of the devil.

The trial continues today.

35p robber fights life 'recall' system

A man jailed for life for robbing a pet shop of 35p with a starting pistol, yesterday appealed to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg against being recalled to jail without trial.

Robert Malcolm Weeks, aged 36, said the life sentence imposed in 1966 had served its purpose when he was released 10 years later. His subsequent jailing without trial violated the European Human Rights Convention, he said.

Weeks was given life when aged 17 after admitting armed robbery. The trial judge, Mr Justice Thegler, said Weeks was a dangerous young man, but added that "terrible though it may seem", the life term was "redly in mercy to the boy" because it would allow him an earlier release than a fixed sentence.

Weeks was released under licence in 1976 but ordered back to prison 15 months later for a traffic violation. He had been in and out of jail until last September when he fled to France, and would be jailed on return to Britain.

Weeks said he was sentenced for an indeterminate period because of his "fluctuating personality". He was released because he was no longer judged a danger to himself or the public; the purpose of the 1966 judgement was served.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, disagreed. "All life sentences under English law deprive the prisoner of liberty for life," he said.

A parole board licence was a Home Secretary's "permission to live outside prison", but it did not restore the prisoner's right to liberty.

MP raises furniture fire risk

Questions are to be asked in Parliament about the fire safety standard of British furniture after a report published yesterday attacked manufacturers and the Government.

The report, by a fire officer, calls for all furniture to be made to pass a test showing that it is resistant to flames, not just to burning cigarettes as at present.

Similar legislation in the United States cut deaths in upholstery fires in a house fire in 1984, has tabled questions to the Home Secretary on the risk.

Creditors attack director

Mr Ian Frazer, a director of "Price Slasher", trading as Calmgrove Ltd, which has gone into liquidation with debts of £1 million, was kicked and punched by creditors at a meeting in the Connaught Rooms, Holborn, central London, yesterday.

Police entered the hall to restore order and escorted Mr Frazer and his brother Rodney from the building.

Mr Ray Hocking, an accountant who was appointed one of two liquidators yesterday, appealed for order but his voice was constantly drowned by creditors who grabbed the microphone.

"There will be a full investigation into the affairs of this company and many of you will know that the Fraud Squad are already inquiring into why so many of you have lost your money," he said.

A statement of affairs showed the company's debts comprised: £965,000 to ordinary unsecured creditors, including about £500,000 due to customers who had paid in advance, and £370,000 to preferential creditors. Assets were estimated to realize £225,000.

Terrorist fear in flight plan

An aviation consultant told a Central Criminal Court jury yesterday he had feared that a man he was being asked to help to fly out of Britain was a Libyan terrorist.

Mr Sean Hully, a witness for the prosecution, said: "I started to get very bad feelings about it."

Mr Hully was giving evidence in the trial of Godfrey Shiner, aged 48, a British businessman, who is accused of conspiring to pervert the course of justice by flying out of Britain a Libyan facing a drugs trial.

Mr Hully said he was asked if he could arrange an executive jet for "Muhammad".

He said: "When I met Muhammad my suspicions became very strong, with all that has been going on at the Libyan Embassy and so on. Muhammad was patently a Libyan."

Mr Shiner, of Napton on the Hill, Warwickshire, denies assisting Muhammad Shebli to fly to Tripoli by private aircraft in 1984, a week before the Libyan was due to face a drugs trial at Croydon Crown Court.

Tougher stand on puppy markets urged

Britain's vets called yesterday for tougher controls on puppy "supermarkets".

The British Veterinary Association said: "It is not too fanciful to compare some of the puppy dealers' kennels with the worst possible refugee camp. Too many young things crowded together and indifferently cared for, facing epidemics and life-threatening infections."

Controls should limit the number of puppies to the accommodation available, prohibit mixing from different litters and insist on a register of suppliers.

Fan jailed for attack in soccer riot

A football supporter was jailed yesterday for attacking the police during one of Britain's worst soccer riots.

Nichols Ives, aged 24, struck two officers with a broken advertising hoarding with a nail in it at Birmingham City's home match against Leeds last May, Birmingham Crown Court was told.

A Northampton supporter,

Fan jailed for attack in soccer riot

aged 15, died after the game when a wall collapsed, and more than 200 people were injured.

Ives hit an inspector and a constable, puncturing his elbow with the nail, as they tried to quell the violence of the Leeds supporters' end. Mr Christopher Tickle said for the prosecution.

Ives, of Hunters Way,

Fan jailed for attack in soccer riot

mitted two charges of assault causing actual bodily harm and blamed drink for his actions. He was jailed for nine months with six months suspended after the judge watched video recordings of the match.

The riot and the Bradford football fire on the same day led to the Popplewell inquiry into safety at sports grounds.

Bats may wake to tussle with the law

Hundreds of bats are sleeping soundly in Greywell tunnel this morning undisturbed by the legal wrangle that overhangs their future.

The tunnel was built almost 200 years ago to take the Basingstoke Canal westward from the Thames. With a length of three-quarters of a mile it was the third longest canal tunnel in southern England until part of it caved in about 55 years ago. Waterway enthusiasts see it as a prime industrial monument in unspoiled countryside that should be reopened for leisure craft.

But the listing of the tunnel as a site of special scientific interest has nothing to do with its place in waterway history. Boats can no longer enter because a steel grille has been fitted across the entrance.

The scientific interest status given to

the tunnel by the Nature Conservancy Council is because it is Britain's best single hibernation site for bats.

"Nothing must be done that jeopardizes the presence of the bats", Mr Tony Mitchell-Jones, a member of the chief scientist's staff at the council, said. More than 500 of the animals were found clinging to the tunnel walls last month.

"You can multiply that number by two or three", Dr Bob Stebbings, an expert on bats, said. "There is an unknown large number of bats in the crevices behind the wall."

Canal enthusiasts want to conserve as much old waterway as they can because so much has been filled in or built over in the past 50 years. The Surrey and Hants Canal Society accepted the Greywell grille on the understanding that it would

not be a permanent barrier.

It is probable that there are still several million bats in Britain, but the numbers of all 15 native species are dwindling as hibernation sites are lost. All bats are protected by wildlife law and it is an offence to disturb them without a licence from the council.

The Basingstoke Canal enthusiasts believe they can work out a way of allowing boats through Greywell tunnel without disturbing the bats. "I think this would be a very dangerous gamble", Dr Stebbings said. "Hibernation sites are visited regularly by bats." The canal society is convinced that the navigation rights given by Parliament in the reign of George III have survived. The legal question is: Does bat protection law override them? So far, it appears, no clear answer has emerged.

The paperclip is a classic example of practical design. Just the sort of innovation that makes small businesses grow large.

Mobil, through good design and technical ingenuity are leaders in the field of petroleum product technology. During Industry Year, together with the Design Council we have launched **Design for Growth '86**. It's a competition specifically for small businesses.

Design for Growth

The aim is to help small companies which have innovative ideas or products - and bring them into the public eye. With a cash prize of £10,000 for the overall winner, advertising and a major exhibition of the top fifty entries, it will also encourage these small businesses to grow.

For more information on Design for Growth '86, and entry details, write to the Awards Office, Design Council, 28 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4SU.

INDUSTRY YEAR 1986

The French election • Communists the big losers • Mitterrand's options • Doubts abroad

Moderates let right off hook over Le Pen coalition

The traditional right managed to gain an absolute majority of seats in Sunday's general election...

From Diana Geddes, Paris

ing, and confirms the movement as one of the five major political parties in France.

The National Front has now just overtaken the Communist Party in importance in terms of votes, though not in seats.

The Communists are the great losers of the election. With 9.7 per cent of the vote, they have fallen to their lowest level for more than 50 years...

However, they can expect to get the support of the 14 deputies elected under diverse moderate-right tickets...

The National Front has emerged as the great victor of the elections. With 9.8 per cent of the vote, it enters the National Assembly for the first time in its 14-year life...

Although the Front's score is substantially less than the 15 per cent its leader, M Jean-Marie Le Pen, was predicting...

Looking tired and downcast, M Georges Marchais, the general secretary, appeared on television on Sunday night to denounce the "ominous blackmail exerted on Communist voters to convince them

that the only way to prevent a return of the right was to vote Socialist".

There is some truth in what he said. The Socialists made repeated calls to the electorate throughout the campaign not to waste their vote in small departments where, under the new system of proportional representation, the smaller parties had little chance of winning any seat.

Apart from the quite exceptional 37 per cent obtained by the Socialists in 1981 in the midst of the left-wing euphoria which swept the country in the wake of President Mitterrand's election, it is the party's highest score since the foundation of the first Socialist party in 1905.

With 206 seats, the Socialists remain the largest single party in the new 577-seat assembly. A clearly delighted M Laurent Fabius, the Prime Minister, described the Socialists' score as "altogether remarkable".

The Socialists could be proud of the work they had achieved with President Mitterrand, and remained "more than ever the great movement of hope".

Listening to the comments of the Socialist leaders, it was sometimes difficult to remember that, however well the Socialists had done, they had nevertheless lost the election,



The morning after: M Laurent Fabius taking his sons to school in Paris yesterday.

and that their five years in government had come to an end.

Thanks to the proportional representation system, which virtually guarantees a seat to those well placed on the party lists, there were hardly any casualties among the more important political figures.

However, M Raymond Barre, the most popular of the leaders on the right, suffered a serious, personal setback, in seeing the list he was leading in the department of the Rhône beaten, contrary to all expectations, by the Socialist list, led by M Charles Hernu, the former Defence Minister who was forced to resign in September over the Greenpeace affair.

Alone among the right-wing leaders, M Barre has consistently refused to accept the idea of a right-wing government "cohabiting" with a left-wing president, maintaining that such a situation would inevitably result in political chaos.

Bargaining begins in the Paris corridors of power

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

The French were waiting in suspense yesterday for news of what the future holds in store for them. The narrowness of the right-wing victory is widely seen as greatly extending President Mitterrand's scope for manoeuvre, notably in his choice of Prime Minister.

Leaders of the two main opposition parties, the UDF and the RPR, met yesterday morning to discuss the implications of the election results, and immediately put out a joint statement, reiterating their "conditions" for the selection of the new Prime Minister, in an evident attempt to preempt President Mitterrand.

The person chosen must have the confidence of the "new majority", and must be assured in advance that he and his government will be able to carry out "without compromise or concession" the joint programme drawn up by the UDF and RPR.

M Jean Lecanuet, the UDF leader, had earlier made it clear that his party was prepared to accept the RPR's nominee for the post, even though the RPR has relatively only a few more seats than the UDF in the new assembly.

Until now it had been expected that M Jacques Chirac, as the leader of the highest right-wing party, would be offered the post.

But, although he remains the front-runner in most commentators' minds, the names of more moderate right-wing politicians, such as M Jacques Chaban-Delmas, Mme Simone Veil and even former President Giscard d'Estaing, are once again being mooted.

An opinion poll taken on Sunday, after the main outline of the results had become clear, showed that 61 per cent of the electorate hoped that the new right-wing majority would be able to "cohabit" peacefully with President Mitterrand.

But they were divided on whether that was possible. Many agree with M Raymond Barre that it will lead to political chaos and greatly weaken France's image.

The narrowness of the right-wing victory calls for particularly firm solidarity within the union of the right. But as M Lionel Jospin, the First Secretary of the Socialist Party, pointed out on Sunday night, that is far from assured in an alliance of two parties with differing views on several subjects and whose three main leaders, all of whom have presidential ambitions, are often in open rivalry.

Several different scenarios are now possible. No one quite knows what is going to happen because such a situation has never arisen before under the Fifth Republic and the constitution has not been tested.

The next presidential elections are not due until 1988, but President Mitterrand could decide to resign before then and possibly call new parliamentary elections.

He might, though, decide to call a referendum on some topic which he knows he is virtually certain to win, such as the reduction of the presidential mandate from seven to five years, using the expected favourable result as a form of plebiscite to strengthen his own position in the country before calling new parliamentary elections.

THE PARTIES

Rassemblement pour la République (RPR). Created by Jacques Chirac in 1976 out of the former Gaullist Union des Démocrates pour la République section of society. The largest, most disciplined, richest and best organized of the political parties, cutting across a broad cross-section of right-wing and populist opinion. President, Jacques Chirac, aged 53.



Left to right: M Marchais, M Barre and M Le Pen.

Table with 2 columns: Party Name and Percentage of Vote. Includes PS, PC, RPR, UDF, Ecologists, etc.

Alarm at success of Front

By Our Foreign Staff West European countries expect friendly ties with the new right-wing Government likely to emerge from the French general elections, but there is widespread alarm at the far-right National Front's success.

Conservative-ruled West Germany expressed confidence that its close ties with France would not be affected by the change from a Socialist to a rightist administration.

Spain's Socialist Government also predicted that good relations with France would not suffer.

But the gains by the National Front seat shock waves through Europe and beyond.

In the Soviet Union Tass said: "The results achieved by the extreme rightists of the National Front caused great anxiety to democratic public opinion."

British officials also expressed concern privately about the Front's success, and Labour MP, Mr David Winnick, urged the Government to ban Front members from entering Britain.

A Japanese Foreign Ministry source forecast that the far-rightists "would hold a sort of casting vote in the conservative groups".

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Advertisement for the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, Volume 1. Includes a large image of the dictionary and promotional text: 'A book service of WHSMITH and Doubleday', '163,000 entries', '2,672 pages', 'Each 11" x 8 1/2"', 'Full-size readable type', 'Save £47'.

Regions echo national vote

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

French people went to the polls on Sunday not only to vote in national elections but also, for the first time, to elect directly 1,840 regional councillors under the 1982 Socialist decentralization law aimed at giving greater powers to the regions.

These regional elections had been postponed more than once over the past three years and the idea of holding them last Sunday meant they were somewhat overshadowed by the legislative elections.

Even though a slightly lower proportion of people took the time to cast their regional votes as well as their national ones, the regions benefited from a higher electoral turnout of 78.5 per cent compared with, for example, a 43.3 per cent turnout recorded at the last European elections in 1984.

to that of the national elections.

The extreme-right National Front, standing for the first time, emerged as an influential force with a national total of 130 seats.

But it appears its success was more due to a division of the right-wing votes than the winning of votes from the left. Still, before Sunday the left held six of the 22 metropolitan regions and now it appears it may retain only two.

The right, on the other hand, has not obtained the clear majority it had anticipated, and in about nine regions will need the help of the National Front to command an overall majority, although it has previously stated it is not interested in forming a coalition with M Jean-Marie Le Pen's party.

the RPR and five to the UDF right-wing parties.

Comparisons between the new directly-elected regional councils and the previous ones are misleading. However, it would seem that personalities still count in political preferences.

Only in Corsica have direct regional elections taken place since 1982, due to the special status given to the island and justified by its economy, culture and geographical position. But the latest results there threaten to give the same type of "hung" council as the previous 1984 results did, with both the left and right in need of the two independent Corsican parties to obtain an overall majority.

The overall political picture in the regions, both in metropolitan France and in its overseas territories, will not become clear until the end of the week when it is thought regional councils will be formed.

It had been hoped the regional election would give a clearer indication of French political sentiment, but the patterns to emerge was similar

Which spelling is correct?

- 1 abattoir/abattoir
2 accommodate/accommodate
3 braggodocio/braggodocio
4 desiccate/dessicate
5 pavilion/pavillion

ANSWER

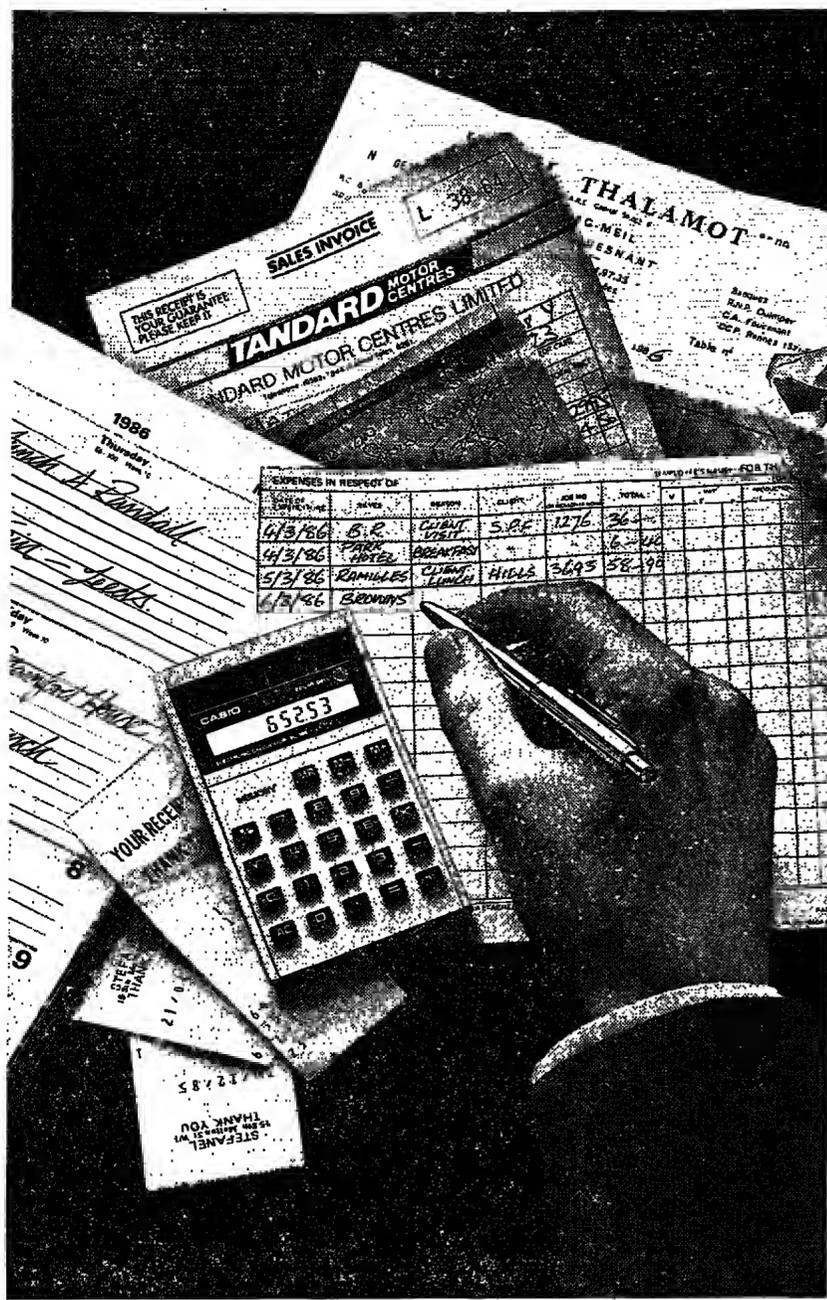
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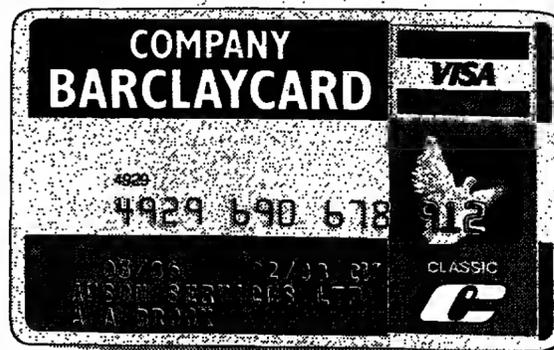
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VISA

Howe lashes 'specious' nuclear arms propaganda from Russia

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

In an attempt to counter the Soviet Union's peace offensive, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday warned Western public opinion against being taken in by "a speciously attractive timetable for abolishing nuclear weapons by the end of the century".

In a hard-hitting speech to the Foreign Press Association, the Foreign Secretary firmly rejected Opposition party calls to take up the recent proposals by Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, for the elimination of American and Soviet medium-range missiles in Europe on condition that Britain and France freeze their nuclear deterrents at existing levels.

"This Government is ready to seize any opportunity which genuinely gives peace a chance. But giving away Britain's deterrent... would not be giving peace, but war, a better chance."

He also emphasized that there could be no nuclear disarmament unless there were also substantial reductions in conventional, chemical and other weapons.

Noting the Soviet Union's massive conventional superiority over Nato, he said: "Simply making Europe safe for conventional war is no way to preserve our children's future."

Sir Geoffrey's speech, which focused exclusively on defence and deterrent issues, was the first public statement by a minister on arms control poli-

cy since Mrs Thatcher replied to Mr Gorbachov's latest arms offer a week ago.

The Foreign Secretary made it clear that the West was prepared "to meet Mr Gorbachov halfway" if the new style in Moscow really foreshadowed new policies intended to reinforce stability and restore confidence.

But he also made it clear that Britain would not lower its guard in the face of the current Soviet propaganda campaign until Moscow matched words with deeds.

He dismissed Mr Gorbachov's call for a ban on all nuclear tests on the ground that such a ban would be unverifiable, in spite of recent technical advances. He rejected Mr Gorbachov's offer of

some form of on-site inspection, describing it as "the same old brew, merely warmed up to tickle the palates of those who have forgotten how it tasted before".

Sir Geoffrey attacked those in Western Europe who equated American defence policies with those of the Soviet Union. Those who made the mistake of regarding the two superpowers as somehow on an equal moral footing not only endangered the security of the West but also had a position that was logically and morally flawed.

He emphasized that Nato remained the lynchpin of Europe's security and that there was no substitute for the full commitment of American might.



Sobhraj at an extradition hearing two years ago.

Huge Indian hunt for notorious killer

Delhi (Reuter) - India yesterday cast a massive police dragnet across its northern and central states for Charles Sobhraj who walked to freedom past dragged guards on Sunday.

More than 24 hours after the break from the top security Tihar jail by Sobhraj and six other inmates, police in the capital stopped cars, buses and questioned cyclists but found no trace of the escapees.

Sobhraj, aged 42, the subject of two bestsellers, had been charged with several

robbery-murders in which the victims were drugged. He was jailed in 1976 and faced extradition to Thailand.

A reward of 25,000 rupees (about £1300), about seven times the annual income of the average Indian, has been offered for information leading to his capture.

The Press Trust of India said police were seeking a man charged with banditry and freed on bail three months ago, who may have master-minded the escape.

Damascus report of 100 hurt by bomb

From Robert Fisk Beirut

A large bomb explosion wounded up to 100 people outside a building housing Soviet personnel in Damascus, according to growing reports yesterday in Beirut.

Syria's official silence on the matter - which has greeted all independent inquiries about the reports - suggests that a blast of some kind did indeed take place in the Syrian capital, apparently in the Abbasiya Square district of the city.

The Christian Phalangist "Voice of Lebanon" radio station first broadcast news of a bomb on Saturday.

Although the radio is both partisan and often inaccurate, it was quite specific about details of the explosion, claiming that it occurred on Thursday evening only a few yards from a series of offices housing "Soviet military advisers".

Moscow maintains approximately 2,500 military personnel in Syria, many of them operating the Sam 5 anti-aircraft missile sites outside Damascus and Homs.

It was unclear whether any Russians were among the casualties of the bomb, all news of which appears to have been suppressed by the Syrian Government. Neither state radio and television, nor the party-controlled newspapers, have made any mention of an explosion.

If the reports are proved to be correct, however, suspicion is bound to fall upon the Christian Phalangists in Lebanon, whose refusal to abide by Syria's peace proposals in Beirut have deeply angered President Assad of Syria.

Yet another peace plan - this time confined only to west Beirut - is supposed to be implemented this week in the hope that the growing enmity between Muslim militias can be controlled before open warfare resumes on the streets.

Mr Rashid Karami, the Lebanese Prime Minister, who is effectively Syria's spokesman within the ineffectual Lebanese Cabinet, abandoned his familiar optimism yesterday to a statement which accused militiamen of risking the destruction of Lebanon.

Lawlessness and insecurity, he said, was an "octopus" that is holding the country in its tentacles.

Swedish Air Force downs own plane

Stockholm - The Swedish Air Force yesterday faced a top-level row after shooting down one of its own aircraft (Christopher Mussey writes).

Pilot Bert-Ake Lindvall, aged 40, and Engineer Kjell Thulin, aged 22, were killed when a unit practising anti-aircraft fire hit their plane instead of the target it was towing a kilometre behind.

Job for top Israeli spy

Jerusalem - A job has been found as chairman of Israeli Chemicals for Mr Rafi Eitan, once head of the secret unit inside the Prime Minister's office closed down for organizing spying on the United States (Ian Murray writes).

Mr Eitan, who as a Mossad agent masterminded the capture of Adolf Eichmann, was a close ally in the Herut party of Mr Ariel Sharon, Trade and Industry Minister.

Train blast

Paris (Reuter) - Nine people were slightly injured by an explosion which caused a small fire on a Paris-Lyon TGV express train outside Paris. Officials did not know the cause.

Cutback recall

Lusaka (AP) - Thirty-four Zambian diplomats have been recalled from abroad, and several more face the same fate, in a government bid to cut costs.

Hitching ban

Tel Aviv (Reuter) - The Israeli Army will court-martial any woman soldier found hitch-hiking at night after a West German woman was shot and left for dead on a desert road.

Cyclone trail

Antananarivo (Reuter) - A cyclone ripped across Madagascar at 75 mph, killing one person, leaving at least 5,000 homeless, and destroying hundreds of acres of rice.

Sailor beware

Islamabad (Reuter) - Sailors from six US warships visiting coastal Pakistan may drink on reserved beaches but have been warned they could be stoned to death or flogged for chasing prostitutes.

Tear gas fired at Sabah Muslims

Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia (Reuter) - Police fired tear gas to disperse more than 2,000 Muslim opposition supporters who marched on the High Court as it dismissed a writ seeking to stop elections in Sabah state.

The court dismissed with costs an injunction filed by an independent state assemblyman, Abdul Ghafar Haji Salleh, to restrain the Election Commission from fixing a date for elections in the mainly Christian-ruled state.

It reserved judgment on another part of the writ challenging last month's dissolution of the assembly by Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan, the Chief Minister, ahead of fresh polls due within 90 days.

The unrest began after elections last April when the newly-formed Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS), with strong support from Kadazans, the largest ethnic community, toppled the multi-racial Berjaya party.

Angered by the PBS's failure to honour a pact to form a coalition, the Muslim opposition United Sabah National Organisation (USNO) secretly had its president, Tun Mustapha Harau, declared Chief Minister. But the PBS protested and the Federal Government refused to recognize him and instead the PBS



leader, Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan, was sworn in.

An angry USNO boycotted state assembly sittings and Tun Mustapha Harau challenged in the courts Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan's right to rule, bringing day-to-day government to a halt.

Defections from PBS to USNO prompted the Chief Minister to call for fresh elections.

The final blow to the PBS came with the High Court writ challenging the Chief Minister's dissolution of the assembly.

Over the four days of the sittings, 13 bombs exploded in Kota Kinabalu, injuring four people and causing panic. Two women died in arson attacks, police said.

Sabah is the only one of Malaysia's 13 states not controlled by Muslim or Malay parties.

Black miners go back to work

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

At least 20 blacks have died in continuing widespread violence symptomatic of the political and social unrest in the country, according to police.

The worst disturbances were at two gold mines on the West Rand, where 15 black miners were killed and at least 166 injured in clashes with police and mine security guards. Mine management said the fighting amounted to a tribal faction clash between black employees.

The two mines, Vaal Reef and Blyvooruitzicht, were said to be operating normally yesterday. At Vaal Reef, eight miners died in fighting between Xhosa and Sotho groups on Saturday night, management said. In violence at Blyvooruitzicht on Friday night, six miners were killed -

four in clashes with police and two apparently at the hands of other miners. A security guard near by was also killed.

Neither union nor management spokesmen believes the violence is work-related. They see it more as a spill-over of turbulence from the townships into the mine compounds, where thousands of workers are concentrated in claustrophobic conditions.

The growth of union power at the mines and the Government's delay in abolishing the statutory reservation of whites holding the most senior jobs at the mines have also fuelled black anger.

Four other blacks died in townships in the Eastern Cape and on the West Rand in clashes with police and black-against-black violence.

Small income tax cuts in South African budget

From Our Own Correspondent Johannesburg

The South African Minister of Finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, yesterday presented what was widely regarded as a holding budget providing for record expenditure of 37,447 million rand (about £13,140 million) in the financial year.

This represents an increase of 19 per cent on the expenditure budgeted for 1985-86, but only 13.6 per cent after taking into account supplementary spending in the financial year now ending.

Addressing a joint session of South Africa's white, Indian and mixed-race chambers of parliament, Mr du Plessis

announced some mildly stimulatory measures, including a 5 per cent cut in income tax but said that more far-reaching changes could only be considered later in the year after the completion of the Margo Commission's investigation into the tax structure.

The single biggest item of expenditure is the 6,082 mil-

lion rand allocated for education, an increase of 19.3 per cent on 1985-86.

The increase in the outlay for black primary and secondary education, which lags far behind the quality of white education, is 27.8 per cent. A total of 631 million rand is earmarked for improvements in housing in black areas.

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Unita frees over 170 foreigners seized in diamond mine town

Lisbon (Reuters) — Some 176 foreigners captured by Angolan Unita rebels on March 1 have been freed and are safe in Zaire's south province of Shaba, Portugal's Ambassador in Kinshasa said. Senhor Alvaro Guerra, quoted by the Noticias de Portugal news agency, said they were in the hands of the International Committee of the Red Cross in a rugged, isolated area 900 miles from the Zairean capital. Food, clothing and medicine were being sent to them.

Unita said earlier in Lisbon that it had been in contact with the Red Cross to secure the earliest possible release of the captives, who were seized at the diamond-mining town of Andrada in Angola's north-east Lunda province.

Senhor Guerra was quoted as saying the foreigners, who include some 100 Filipinos, 70 Portuguese, four Britons, two West Germans, a Canadian and a Romanian, would be flown to Kinshasa when they managed to reach a town with an airstrip.



The group, which includes women and children, had initially faced a trek to freedom of more than 800 miles.

Unita, which has fought a guerrilla war against Angola's Marxist Government since independence from Portugal in 1975, had originally said the captives would be marched to its base in Jamba, south-east Angola, where they would be released.

The spokesman said Unita had taken into consideration the humanitarian aspect of the march facing the foreigners, such as the heavy rains falling in the region. "We did not want a situation created which

could be used against Unita," he said. The march would have lasted two months.

The high-ranking Unita official, who asked not to be named, said all the foreigners were in good health.

Unita said in a statement yesterday that it had foiled a recent attempt by Angolan government forces to rescue the captives. The column of foreigners and their escorts avoided the ambush planned at Chikapa, south of Andrada.

The release of the prisoners is the first case of Unita freeing foreign workers seized in Angola without first marching them to its base at Jamba. More than 100 Filipinos, Portuguese and Britons captured in Lunda in 1984 were marched to Jamba.

The rebel group, which claims to control large areas of south-eastern Angola and to be active in much of the rest of the country, has frequently warned foreigners working in Angola that they risk their lives in the war being fought there.

America in sea of emerald green

From Michael Binyon Washington

With pipes, parades and a sea of green, America celebrated St Patrick's Day yesterday, honouring the country's most famous Irish Americans and inviting to the White House the Prime Minister of the Emerald Isle to which more than 40 million people trace their ancestry.

President Reagan held the first talks with Dr Garret FitzGerald since the passage through the House of Representatives last week of the Irish Aid Bill, which provides for \$250 million over five years for reconstruction and development in Northern Ireland. He was given the traditional shamrock and a Waterford crystal Statue of Liberty.

The overwhelming support in the House for the aid Bill was largely engineered by Mr Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, the Speaker, one of America's most distinguished Irishmen.

Last night President Reagan, who himself claims allegiance to the shamrock, attended a farewell \$1,000-a-plate dinner for Mr O'Neill, who is retiring from this year after 50 years in elected politics.

The money raised, expected to total more than \$2 million, is to fund a scholarship at Boston College, Mr O'Neill's old university.

Mr Fitzgerald, who was a guest of honour, had himself



Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, right, and the Irish Prime Minister, Dr Garret FitzGerald, watch Washington's St Patrick's Day parade.

US aid for the Contras Reagan intensifies lobbying after fiery TV appeal

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

President Reagan yesterday continued his intensive lobbying to secure \$100 million (£66.6 million) in aid for the Nicaraguan rebels, after an emotional television appeal to the nation to halt the Nicaraguan "cancer" that directly threatened US security.

On the eve of the crucial congressional aid debate tomorrow, the President telephoned Republicans and Democrats opposed to military help for the Contras. He also received Mr Philip Habib, his special envoy for Central America, for a report on his talks last week with regional leaders.

In his speech he called on Americans to put pressure on Congress to pass the package, which he said was essential if the US was to avoid a Soviet beachhead on its doorstep, increased terrorism in the region, and a tide of "desperate Latin people by the millions" fleeing to the US.

But Senator Jim Sasser, a leading Democratic opponent of aid to the Contras, said the President was reaching for the military option before negotiations had a chance.

While the Democrats did not quarrel with the Administration's condemnation of the Sandinistas and Managua's goal of spreading communism, they opposed Mr Reagan's means to achieve his policies.

Speaking on television immediately after the President, Mr Sasser said the Sandinista forces were not as brutal as the rebels, whose atrocities were being financed by the US. He wanted, he said, to freeze military aid while a further effort was made to get the Sandinistas to negotiate.

Mr Reagan now needs only about 10 votes in the House of Representatives on Thursday to win.

In his television address, Mr Reagan said Congress now faced one simple question: would the US give the Nicaraguan "cancer" the means to recapture its "betrayed revolution" or would it turn its back and ignore the malignancy in Managua until it had become a mortal threat to the entire New World.

He said the Sandinista Government had revoked civil rights in Nicaragua, assaulted religious groups, tortured priests, and transformed their nation into a "command post for international terrorism" which was also involved in drug trafficking.

"There seems to be no crime to which the Sandinistas will not stoop... this is an outlaw regime," the President said.

He insisted that he still wanted a negotiated peace. But he said the US had tried some 10 times without success to promote talks.

The Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact had grasped the strategic importance of Nicaragua: it was time the US made its decision to prevent an "outcome... deeply injurious" to US security. "If we fail, there will be no evading responsibility. History will hold us accountable."

Mr Reagan appealed for bipartisan support to launch a new "Truman doctrine" to save freedom in Nicaragua.

"Could there be any greater tragedy than for us to sit back and permit this cancer to spread?" he asked.

The President hoped that at the end of his term he would have left America safe, "still a beacon of hope to mankind".

Detained Lesotho brigadier dies

Maseru (Reuters) — Lesotho's ruling Military Council has announced that the former Deputy Commander of the Paramilitary Force, Brigadier B.M. Ramotsekoane, died in detention.

It was the second death in detention to be announced this month of officers opposed

to January's military coup which brought Major-General Justin Lekhanya, the Commander of the Paramilitary Force, to power.

A statement broadcast by the state radio at the weekend said Brigadier Ramotsekoane was detained for questioning on March 8 and taken to police headquar-

ters. Soon after his arrival, he showed "signs of illness" and was taken to hospital, where he died. A post-mortem examination has been ordered by the Police Commissioner.

On March 6 Colonel Schlabo Schlabo, who led a brief mutiny in opposition to the January 20 coup, died of a heart attack, also in detention.

was feted at a dinner on Sunday with other Irish Americans, including Mrs Margaret Heckler, the current US Ambassador in Dublin.

Washington held its St Patrick's Day parade, witnessed by about 10,000 people, on Sunday. The biggest parade was in New York yesterday.

Paying tribute to the Irish treaty that prompted the US

aid for Northern Ireland, the *New York Times* yesterday saluted Mrs Thatcher, saying that she and Dr FitzGerald had produced a "remarkable agreement" in a new approach to an ancient quarrel. The paper, however, bitterly criticized Mr Reagan's means to achieve his policies, which it called the "lost Irish tribe", for its "baffling" opposition.

Kremlin steps up war of words

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The renewed propaganda battle between the superpowers was stepped up yesterday when Tass launched a biting attack on President Reagan for his appeal on behalf of the Nicaraguan rebels, and *Pravda* accused the US of "playing with fire" in the southern Mediterranean.

The latest broadsides, following recent sharp disagreements on arms control and the timing of this year's summit, were seen by Western observers as signifying at least a temporary end to the "spirit of Geneva" which had managed for a brief period to halt the war of words between Moscow and Washington.

Tasa described Mr Reagan's appeal to Congress for \$100 million (£67 million) in aid for the Contra rebels in Central America as "reminiscent of the script of the controversial anti-communist film *Red Dawn*", which is described as a "cheap movie" depicting the invasion of the US by Nicaraguan, Cuban and Soviet troops.

Red Dawn and other US box-office successes, such as *Rambo* and *Rocky IV*, have been condemned by Soviet officials as outstanding examples of Washington's failure to respond to "the spirit of Geneva" and failure to cease portraying Russians in crude, exaggerated stereotypes.

The recent surge of anti-American attacks in the Soviet media represents a significant change from the immediate post-Geneva period when, on Kremlin orders, press attacks on the US were cut back sharply.

The recent return to wide-scale media hostilities is seen by European diplomats as reflecting both the superpower brinkmanship being played over the holding of the summit and the strong anti-American feeling which emerged as a key ideological theme at the 27th Communist Party congress.

Pravda spoke harshly yesterday of "militarist preparations" by the US Navy near the Libyan coast as Washington geared up for its third set of manoeuvres within three months.

The dangerous character of Washington's anti-Libyan policy has been admitted indirectly even by the USA's closest allies.

New war fears, page 16

BEST LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME Victoria Wood as seen on TV	BEST DRAMA SERIES/SERIAL Edge of Darkness	BEST FACTUAL SERIES Forty Minutes	BEST ACTOR Bob Peck (Edge of Darkness)	BEST COMEDY SERIES Only Fools and Horses	BEST ACTRESS Claire Bloom (Shadowlands)	BEST CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME/DRAMA ENTERTAINMENT/DRAMA Grange Hill
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BEST ORIGINAL TELEVISION MUSIC Eric Clapton/Michael Kamen (Edge of Darkness)	DESIGN Tim Harvey (Bleak House)	BEST LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT PERFORMANCE Victoria Wood (Victoria Wood as seen on TV)	FILM EDITOR Arday Fisher/Dan Rae (Edge of Darkness)	1985 TV AWARD FOR ORIGINALITY Bob Geldof	MAKE UP Lisa Westcott (Bleak House)	BEST CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME/DOCUMENTARY/EDUCATIONAL Timmy's Story

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Cash crisis hits Uganda coffee board

Kampala (Reuters) — Uganda's state-run Coffee Marketing Board is facing a cash crisis and banks are refusing to honour its cheques, board officials said yesterday.

Ugandan coffee, which the board buys from growers and sells to exporters, accounts for more than 90 per cent of the country's foreign exchange earnings.

The cash shortage was brought about by the civil war which coincided with the coffee season and stopped supplies at the end of last year from getting to Kampala and on to the export markets.

The board is now negotiating overdrafts with local banks and with foreign buyers for prepayment to end the crisis.

Strikes halt Spanish transport

Madrid — Industrial action by Iberia Airlines ground crews and railway employees affected more than 500,000 travellers and commuters yesterday. Labour leaders said there will be more stoppages in the next 15 days unless the workers get higher wages and other concessions (Harry Debus writes).

Railway staff halted all trains between 8am and 10am and between 8pm and 10pm. They object to the recent dismissal of 11 workers and say they will halt trains again on March 21, 24 and 26 and on April 1.

Iberia cancelled at least 60 flights yesterday. Ground crews will repeat their strike on March 24, 25, 26 and 31.

Curfews in Punjab as clashes follow strike

Delhi (Reuters) — An indefinite curfew was imposed on another Punjab town after a second day of sectarian clashes yesterday during a militant Hindu strike in protest against Sikh extremist attacks in the state.

The curfew was imposed in the industrial town of Jullundur where the militant Hindu Shiv Sena group staged its protest, a senior police official said from Chandigarh, the state capital. He gave no details of casualties in yesterday's clashes but said there were no deaths.

Clashes on Sunday night led to a curfew being imposed on Bataia, 25 miles north of Jullundur, where five people died and 16 were injured in street battles between Sikhs and Hindus.

It was not clear whether the victims died in the clashes or in police gunfire.

The Bataia violence was among the worst in Punjab since the state's Chief Minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, and his moderate Sikh Akali Dal party took power last September.

Shiv Sena, enraged by what they say is Mr Barnala's failure to protect the state's Hindu minority from Sikh extremist attacks, called the Jullundur strike when one of the group's leaders died after being wounded in an attack on Thursday.

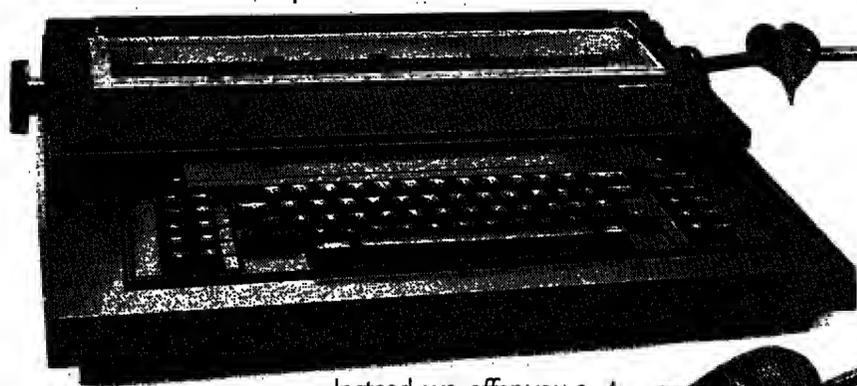
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Baton-wielding police scatter hundreds in Budapest youth march

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

Hungarian police baton-charged hundreds of young Hungarians marching to celebrate the anniversary of the beginning of the 1848 war of independence in Budapest, dissent sources and Austrian radio reported yesterday.

The violence was reported to have occurred on Sunday night when a group of 700 young Hungarians broke away from about 15,000 people who had gathered to celebrate one of the most festive events in the Hungarian calendar.

The 700 were intercepted by police as they marched towards the Elizabeth Bridge near the statue of the celebrated revolutionary poet, Sandor

Petőfi, which is the traditional focus of the 1848 anniversary celebrations.

As police tried to confiscate samizdat literature and check identity passes, scuffles broke out.

According to Austrian radio, dozens were arrested as police resorted to batons to restore order.

The violence is the worst outbreak of public disorder in Hungary for many years.

The 1848 anniversary celebrations traditionally have the atmosphere of a village fête with stalls selling a Hungarian tricolour flag and badges.

They are, however, invariably heavily policed and dip-

lomats at the weekend reported bustle of policemen patrolling the area around the Elizabeth Bridge.

The Hungarian Government officially distances itself from the celebrations, which have been seen in the past by Hungary's Warsaw Pact neighbours as striking a chauvinist, revanchist note.

The combination of nostalgia, extensive supplies of alcohol, and the frustration many young Hungarians feel about their country's rising cost of living, could easily have led to a demonstration which the authorities would have felt compelled to break up.

Singapore hotel disaster: the search goes on

Rescued bank staff cheered

Singapore (Reuter) — Rescue workers clapped and cheered yesterday as another survivor walked from a collapsed Singapore hotel where he had been trapped for two days.

He and four others saved yesterday brought the number of survivors to 16, but police think about 40 people are buried in the rubble of the New World Hotel and know that some are still alive. Ten people are known to have died.

Spurred by the sound of voices, foreign and Singaporean mining engineers burrowed rescue tunnels into tons of rubble reeking with petrol fumes from damaged cars in the hotel basement.

Early yesterday afternoon they freed two Chinese bank officials. One managed to limp to waiting doctors, clapped and cheered by the hundreds of rescue workers.

The bank was on the ground floor of the hotel, but was pushed below ground by the force of the collapse. Rescuers said they passed some bodies as they forced their way lower down towards the basement where three people awaited rescue.

Rescue workers plan to cut a hole in the wall to insert a camera to assess their condition and how to approach them.

"We are working under the dangerous possibility that the whole thing could collapse," an army doctor, Lim Meng Kin, said.

Engineers are worried that rain on the site could cause large concrete slabs to settle and threaten the tunnels below.

Mr David Butcher, aged 39, of Newcastle upon Tyne, said that he had been awarded the British Empire Medal in 1969 after rescuing two workmen trapped in a tunnel in London after a gas explosion.

Mr Butcher, now a pit boss for a Japanese firm digging an underground railway here, spent much of yesterday tunnelling under piles of rubble looking for survivors trapped by the collapse on Saturday of the New World Hotel.



Ms Helen Tan Guek Neo, aged 26, who was rescued from the debris of the collapsed New World Hotel, is comforted in hospital by President Wee Kim Wee of Singapore.

British hero scours debris

Singapore (Reuter) — A British mining engineer burrowing through the debris of a Singapore hotel in search of survivors has already been awarded a medal for saving life underground.

Mr David Butcher, aged 39, of Newcastle upon Tyne, said that he had been awarded the British Empire Medal in 1969 after rescuing two workmen trapped in a tunnel in London after a gas explosion.

Mr Butcher, now a pit boss for a Japanese firm digging an underground railway here, spent much of yesterday tunnelling under piles of rubble looking for survivors trapped by the collapse on Saturday of the New World Hotel.

"I'm just digging with my bare hands and scraping through the debris," said Mr Butcher, his overalls and face caked in mud.

"But I don't really feel the danger. You tend to think of the people we are trying to rescue and not of yourself," he said. "I'll be here until the whole operation is finished."

Compared with the London rescue, the Singapore operation is difficult because there is so much rubble locked into chunks of sharp reinforced concrete. The air is tainted with petrol fumes from crushed vehicles.

Mr Butcher and other engineers, foreign and Singaporean, have to remove debris blocking their advance without disturbing the rubble below them. Then they shove up the tunnel with wood before going even deeper.

"I'm on my hands and knees all the time but I'm used to it and I did not mind," said Mr Butcher. "I've been doing this kind of work for quite a long time."

Mr Butcher said he had heard voices underground but had not yet found anyone alive. "I've seen three bodies so far. I saw a man over a motor-bike with his whole body squashed, another body pinned between walls and one inside a car."

Reform alliance founded in Seoul

From David Watts Tokyo

Christian, opposition and dissident movements in South Korea have formed an umbrella organization to press for greater democracy.

The new alliance against the Government of President Chun Doo Hwan was inaugurated at a three-hour lunch meeting in Seoul yesterday, the first time Korean oppositionists have formed a single alliance since President Chun came to power six years ago.

The new body, called the National Liaison Organization for Democratization, incorporates leading dissidents and politicians, such as Mr Kim Young Sam and Mr Kim Dae Jung, and five important religious and political groups, including the opposition New Korea Democratic Party which has 90 of the 276 seats in the National Assembly.

The other organizations are the Council for the Promotion of Democracy, which is chaired jointly by the two Kims, the United Minjung (People) Movement for Democracy and Unification, headed by the Rev Moon Il Hwan, the civil rights activist; the National Council of Churches (NCC) in Korea; and the Korean Catholic Council for Justice and Peace. Minjung comprises 19 civil rights movements.

The Government did not try to disrupt or prevent the gathering taking place in accordance with the softer line adopted since the peaceful overthrow of the Marcos Government in the Philippines.

The church participation comes after a recent sermon by the head of the Catholic Church in Korea, Cardinal Stephen Kim, in which he urged reform.

According to organizers of the signature campaign for direct presidential elections in South Korea, about 150 Catholic priests have already signed, as have more than 1,000 supporters of the NCC.

VIENNA: The US Embassy yesterday confirmed that it had helped a prominent South Korean couple that reportedly sought refuge at the mission after years of residence in communist East Europe (AP reports).

North Korea's Ambassador accused Washington of kidnapping the two and the South Korean Embassy said it knew nothing of the affair.

The US Embassy spokesman, Mr John Williams, said that film director Shin Sang Ok and his actress wife, Choi Eun Hee, "approached the US Government and sought assistance" on March 13. Assistance was given, he said, referring all further questions to the State Department in Washington.

10 Czechs jump ship on Danube

Munich (Reuter, AP) — Ten Czechoslovak tourists on a River Danube cruise to West Germany, have failed to return to their ship after a visit to Munich.

According to West German border police, three of the group have applied for political asylum in West Germany. They said there was no immediate information on the whereabouts of the other seven.

The 10 were among 185 tourists who sailed up the Danube on the Soviet cruise ship *Dnieper* last Thursday from Czechoslovakia to Passau in Bavaria.

Fifteen Czechoslovak tourists went missing from a similar cruise two weeks ago and six have sought asylum, police said.

Russians develop new spacecraft

Moscow (Reuter) — Soviet scientists have developed a new generation of spacecraft to take cosmonauts to orbiting stations, the Communist Party newspaper *Pravda* said yesterday.

The Soyuz T15 that took Commander Leonid Kizim and Engineer Vladimir Solovoyov to the Mir space station will be the last of the current series, it said in a report from the Baikonur space centre.

Because of the ship's limited technical capacity, last Saturday's docking operation had to be carried out manually by the mission's leader, Commander Kizim.

The fact is that Soyuz T15 is the last 'Salyut-type' ship," *Pravda* said. "Mir needs its own generation of transporters."

The Soyuz T series began

with an unmanned flight in December, 1979, and took over the entire burden of putting cosmonauts in space after Soyuz 40, the last of the original generation, in 1981.

Pravda gave no details about the new spacecraft, in keeping with the secrecy that surrounds most of the Soviet space programme.

PARIS: Preparations for Wednesday's launch of a European Ariane-3 rocket with two telecommunications satellites on board continued on schedule yesterday with all systems reported normal, an Ariane spokesman said (Reuter reports).

The flight comes less than two months after the US shuttle disaster which indefinitely grounded the shuttle programme, leaving Ariane as the only commercial satellite launcher in operation.

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Rebel attack shatters Philippines ceasefire

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Communist rebels ambushed a Jeep in the central Philippines, killing 12 civilians and wounding three others and shattering a three-day military-imposed ceasefire on the troubled island of Negros, military officials said yesterday.

Firing from foxholes on the side of a mountain road 12 miles north of the port city of Dumaguete, about 30 guerrillas of the New People's Army sprayed heavy automatic fire at people in the Jeep who were returning from a meeting in Silab town, the state-run Philippine News Agency said.

The 12 victims were all "finished off" with a bullet in the head and some were hacked with long knives, it said.

The agency also reported that seven soldiers and the wife of an army private were killed in a raid on Friday by 100 communist rebels on a rice warehouse in the northern province of Cagayan. Two soldiers and three militiamen were wounded.

Details of the Negros attack, which happened on Thursday, were relayed to military headquarters in Manila only late yesterday. The rebels came three days after local military officials announced a ceasefire after talks with civic and religious leaders.

With a 25 per cent jump in rebel recruits last year, the island of Negros has the fastest growing insurgency movement in any of the archipelago's trouble spots.

Kremlin's economic guidelines

Gorbachov backed on pay for performance

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

As argument continues within the top ranks of the Soviet Communist Party about the extent to which the country should embark on economic reform, its official paper, *Pravda*, has published an important ideological article designed to support changes already outlined by Mr Mikhail Gorbachov.

Entitled "The Creative Development of Marxist-Leninist Theory", the article declares that in present conditions Marxist economics is not a dogma and that a worker's annual income should depend directly on the amount and quality of his work.

The article, regarded here as particularly authoritative because it is unsigned, also claims that the Soviet Union has begun "a radical reconstruction of the economy" which requires that enterprises be truly self-financing and that individual workers be paid according to their contribution to their plants.

Referring to the watershed 27th party congress which ended last week, *Pravda* argues that it had demonstrated that "Communists view the economic thinking of Marx, Engels and Lenin not as a dogma, but as a guide for action".

Senior Western diplomats describe the article as important and designed to provide ideological backing for Mr Gorbachov's plans. These include ambitious schemes to expand the self-financing of Soviet enterprises and to relate workers' pay packets strictly to the quality and marketability of output, in an effort to cut back massive over-production of shoddy goods.

The extent of the problem was highlighted by *Pravda* earlier last week in a letter from a reader in Vinnitsa in Ukraine, who said that 11,000 defective mirrors had been smashed by workers at one

factory rather than allow them to be sold off at a cut price.

The nine-day congress was dominated by speeches from Mr Gorbachov and his new Prime Minister, Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, outlining plans for more autonomy and self-financing, but at the same time stipulating that this must happen within the framework of a centralized planning system.

The Soviet press has subsequently attacked Western commentators for their criticism of this determination to stick rigidly to a type of economic planning that most experts in the West regard as the main obstacle to faster Soviet economic growth.

The article, which occupied nearly half of one of the six pages of *Pravda* on Friday, appeared designed to free the ruling party for future economic decisions not linked strictly to past dogmas.

"Marxist-Leninist theory is not a set of hard and fast rules which are valid everywhere and in all circumstances," it declares.

The paper also emphasizes that the party, which it says now has 19 million members, must ensure that its functions do not overlap with those of state institutions. This is seen by Kremlin-watchers as backing Mr Gorbachov's drive to streamline administration and free the party to be the source of new economic thinking.

During the Congress, several senior officials made references to East Germany, Bulgaria and Hungary as three East European socialist states which could provide models for reform of the Soviet Union's industrial and agricultural sectors, which have performed badly.

Pravda says the party opposes mixing its functions with those of state bodies because it "exercises political guidance over society and defines the general perspective of its development" rather than playing a purely administrative role.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Romania: Radu Filipescu

By Caroline Moorehead

When police arrested Radu Filipescu in May, 1983, he was distributing leaflets to houses round Bucharest calling on people to gather in Palace Square to demand the replacement of Mr Nicolae Ceausescu as President of Romania.

Mr Filipescu, then aged 28, worked for the state-owned Pizera Electronics Complex. A search of his home revealed printing equipment and more than 2,000 more leaflets.

He is now serving a 10-year sentence and is currently believed to be held in Aiud prison, in Alba, known as one of the harshest jails in Romania. At his military trial in Bucharest in September, 1983, he was found guilty under Article 166 (2) of the criminal code of producing propaganda "from which danger to the security of the state may result".

Romanian organizations in exile have repeatedly taken up Filipescu's case. They argue that the leaflets he printed never advocated violence, that he was only exercising his right to freedom of expression, and that his sentence is a violation of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, ratified by Romania in 1974.



Mr Filipescu: sentenced to 10 years in prison.

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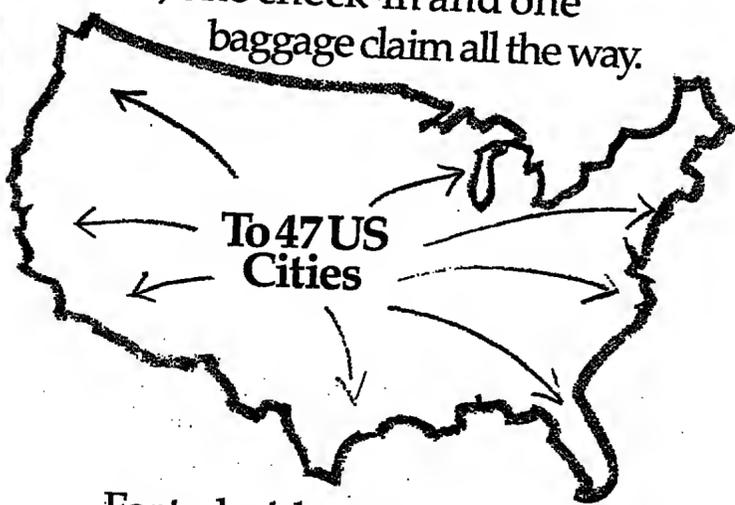


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Television
Missile
message

In modern warfare the enemy is more unseen than he ever was. You know him not by the blip of his eyes but by the blip of his plane on the radar. It was therefore salutary for Horizon (BBC2) to interview for the first time on television some of the Argentinian officers directly involved in sinking the Sheffield, the Ardent and the Atlantic Conveyor.

Salutary because it was a necessary reminder that these men were quite as professional and decent as our own. Indeed, the founder of the Argentinian navy, Admiral Brown, was an Irishman from County Mayo who once captured a ship stranded on the sand with a cavalry charge and bombed his enemy with hard Dutch cheeses when his shot ran out. The cheeses may have given way to Exocets, but the same reasonableness remains.

What is really lamentable, said Commander Colombo, who led the Exocet attacks, "is that we had to measure up against each other in these circumstances." Cutting between the Argentinian pilots and the British captains, in the Wake of HMS Sheffield soberly examined the lessons to be learnt from the Falklands War. As Captain Camling of HMS Broadsword admitted, the campaign was of great benefit to the Royal Navy as an opportunity to test men and equipment in live combat.

When HMS Sheffield was hit by a missile on May 4, 1982, her elderly radar had given only four seconds' warning. This was partly because transmitting a satellite communication she was effectively deafening herself to the Exocet frequency. It was also because the Argentinians, with their own Type 42 destroyers, had practice on how to elude the radar. Their technique of flying low and undetected was called "pecking the lobes" — and well illustrated by the programme's excellent graphics.

The only successful defence to the Exocet was a cloud of aluminium needles called "chaff" which, correctly placed, seduces the missile off course. Other lessons learnt were the value of the Sidewinder missile — Commander Philpott who bombed HMS Ardent reckoned it was the Sidewinder which influenced the final result — and the uselessness of delaying mechanisms. Ten of our ships were hit by bombs which did not explode.

The Argentinian officers did not reveal very much beyond their own professionalism — some of it gained at British institutions. While the programme showed the tools of war are more technological than ever, it left no doubt that the cause of war will always remain human error. As Commander Colombo said, tweaking his lobes, "Don't harbour the slightest doubt that if it is necessary we will do it again."

Nicholas Shakespeare

Galleries
Greater than the image

Heywood Sumner
Winchester Gallery,
Winchester

Designs for British
Fabrics
Victoria and Albert
Museum

Cubism and
Vorticism
Anthony d'Offay

British Post-
Impressionists and
Moderns
Belgrave Gallery

Heywood Sumner is an unsung hero of English art. Indeed, he is virtually the role-model of unsung heroes in these parts. Which is why, unless you live deep in the heart of Wessex, you have probably never heard of him. Even his slight fame in Wessex is largely coincidental: he was born near Winchester in 1853, made an important series of decorations for his parents' house in the Close in 1885 and eventually, after major successes in London, moved back to Fordebridge in the 1900s, from where he flung himself with a will into local history and archeology, and teaching about them both, almost up to his death in 1940. His early etchings and later archeological books are collected for their local interest, and the ambitious and comprehensive new exhibition Heywood Sumner, Artist and Archeologist at the Winchester Gal-

lery, Winchester, until April 12 (then in Cheltenham and Portsmouth) will no doubt excite a suitable amount of regional pride. But, beneath his deceptively parochial appearance, Sumner was much more important than that. He was one of the great seminal figures in the Arts and Crafts movement at the point where it began to shade off into Aestheticism and Art Nouveau. Some of his book decorations, such as *Sintram* and *his Companions* (1883) and *Undine* (1888), get regularly illustrated in international surveys of Art Nouveau, since they are early examples of the curly, swirly style much more favoured on the Continent than in Britain. Other drawings and designs of the period have a rather more prim and strait-laced look which can even be, as in *The Besom Maker* and other contemporary books and prints for children, suggestive of the imaginative world inhabited by Kate Greenaway and Walter Crane.

The Crane connection is particularly evident in the splendid chromo-lithographs like *Solomon's Judgment*, done in the 1890s for a body called the Fitzroy Picture Society, the aims of which were vaguely religious and educational, so that if their prints survive at all they are usually rotting in some neglected vestry rather than in the pristine condition of those here, mostly from the Victoria and Albert.

There was, as it happens, nothing vague at all about Sumner's personal religion, which was the basis of much of his finest decorative work. This was largely in a form of graffiti he evolved for himself, and, apart from that in All Saints, Ennismore Gardens (now an Orthodox cathedral), mostly languishes in remote, closed and threatened churches, such as St Mary, Llanfair Kilgeddin. A number of Sumner's stained-glass windows seem to have vanished, even from such apparently safe resting-places as Harrison Townsend's classic Art Nouveau church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Warley, but enough remain to give a fair idea of his special talents in this field. And then, in the true Arts and Crafts tradition, there are furniture designs, a major tapestry made by Morris and Co., and — perhaps the real revelation of this show — some wonderful designs for wallpaper and textiles, gradually evolving from the richly illusionistic to the stylishly stark over the years he worked for Sanderson, 1893 to 1916.

As to the value of Sumner's strictly archeological work, I gather from experts that he was careful rather than inspired, but a really great popularizer. That much one might presume from the wonderful drawings with which he illustrated his scientific texts; they clearly tell the student all he needs to know on a factual level, but are also exquisitely done as (incidental) works of art, and stylistically they remain right into the Thirties amazingly consistent with what he was doing back in the 1880s. Their vividness and wayward charm can be appreciated again, outside the show, in a new anthology, *Heywood Sumner's Wessex*, an elegant piece of local pictorial which deserves to reach a wider audience (Ray Gasson Associates, £10.95).

But the show itself really should be seen. It cannot claim to reintroduce us to a figure of towering importance, but it paints with grace and scholarship the portrait of a period when England led the world in the decorative arts, and of a man whose talents were too many and too modestly deployed ever to get him his proper reward of fame. Several shows in London at the moment nicely fill in the back-

ground to Sumner. The Victoria and Albert's *Designs for British Dress and Furnishing Fabrics* (until June 1) is another of those resplendent in-house shows which takes one's breath away with the sheer scope and variety of the collection which can be so readily called upon. It covers the 18th to 20th centuries, and very few important figures who worked in the field from early Victorian times on are omitted (though Sumner is one of them, perhaps because Winchester had pre-empted the pieces in question).

The first impression of the show is a riot of colour all around; when you get down to details it is remarkable how many artists of the highest distinction in their own fields have taken so readily to the special disciplines of textile design. Along with those we know of, like Morris and Voysey, there are many we might not even suspect: Gaudi-

er-Brzeska, Graham Sutherland and Henry Moore are only among the most famous. And then there are other specialists one would like to know more about: Joseph Percy Bible in particular looks like an unsung master of Deco.

Two quite different shows fill in, by chance, our picture of what was happening in painting and fine art in Britain during the same years of the early 20th century. At Anthony d'Offay there is an impressive assemblage of drawings related to Cubism and Vorticism (until March 26), and at the Belgrave Gallery in Mason's Yard there is, until the end of the week, a generous selection of British Post-Impressionists and Moderns. Oddly, the Cubism and Vorticism show, reflecting as it does Britain's contributions to the international avant garde, yet emerges the more indelibly local in character. That by no means to diminish the

standing of painters like W. Lewis and Bomberg, but to define it. It is good to observe the strength and the index of British art at this period. Some are more difficult to pin down, but recognize Clausen being German or Scandian or Dutch. And who would have thought that the hundreds of Laura Knight, if husband Harold could be seen, we did not know better. The more Jacob Kramer, who is difficult to place as seeing themselves, and it is a tradition the after all, very much carried on at least up to twenty-fifties with Ruskin's *Stained Glass*, which is a very good book.

John Aspell Taylor



Solomon's Judgment (1893), an unusually pristine and splendid example of Heywood Sumner's chromo-lithographs for the Fitzroy Picture Society

Opera
Idomeneo
Royal Northern
College of Music,
Manchester

In the wake of the Royal Academy's plans, recently reported on this page, to turn itself into a "centre of excellence", the Royal Northern College of Music, feeling understandably miffed, felt itself obliged to set itself one of its most testing operatic challenges to date. Its opera school, who invariably do "wonders for the college's image, have taken on Mozart, and Idomeneo at that.

Their resources, physical and vocal, rise as ever to the challenge. John and Margaret Sheard have applied their architects' eyes to re-creating an architect's blue and gold. Crete, sunlit blue and gold. Crete, with a bold, if noisy, use of huge terracotta Minotaur pillars astride the college's wide stage.

The students are more than competently cast: Gerard Dodd, who was Captain Vere in their memorable *Billy Budd*, has the stammina and presence for the title role; Janice Close, now an occasional Glyndebourne tour un-

derstudy, finds the ecstasy as well as the agony of Iliia well within her strong soprano range; and Mozart's truly tormenting writing for Elettra draws admirable reserves of vitriol and vigour from Jayne Carpenter. They are less happy in their prince: the original Idamante fell ill and Andrew Lane's most pleasing natural tenor is still over-ventilative.

This time, though, both conductor and producer have let the college down. Wilfried Boettcher and Peter Ebert both turn a stubbornly deaf ear to Mozart's physical and emotional cues.

Boettcher's curiously uninvolved, undetailed conducting drags itself along with phrasing and tempi which do little for Mozart and even less for his young singers. Neither can they turn to Ebert for help. He moves his excellent chorus admirably in their vast spaces, individual relationships, though, escape him, and with them all the wonderful nuances of recognition and reconciliation with which Mozart turns his vocal lines.

There are further performances tomorrow and on Saturday.
Hilary Finch

Concerts

Undue emotional restraint

Monteverdi
Choir/Gardiner
Elizabeth Hall

John Eliot Gardiner's interpretation of Bach's *St John Passion*, fittingly presented in a packed hall on Passion Sunday, excited much the same qualities as the B minor Mass he directed here last year. It offered clean, stylish textures, with the English Baroque Soloists' original instruments precisely balanced against an alert and tuneful choir of around 20 voices. The presentation was vigorous and thoughtful (a pity, though, that the programme was printed in a way which guaranteed that the sublime moment when Christ sings the words "Es ist vollbracht" would be disrupted by the sound of a thousand turning pages). Yet the overall impression was one of undue emotional restraint.

Partly this was because Gardiner made the great sepulchre chorus "Ruht wohl" rather formal and ritualistic, and this is what remained in the mind as one left the hall. But it was also due to the seemingly uninvolved manner in which the chorales were performed, and the rather breathless pacing of the arias. These are, after all, the sections where the passion story is absorbed and re-framed in terms of ordinary mortals' hopes and fears.

Gardiner boldly selected pleasant voices from the choir's ranks to tackle these notoriously tricky solos, and then pushed them through at a gallop, so that phrases lost their endings and quicker notes some definition. In fairness, his approach was not enhanced by some occasional-
Richard Morrison

ugly obbligato playing by the needs.

His handling of the choruses, by contrast, was both imaginative and effective. The orchestral introduction to "Herr, unser Herrscher" made a vivid impact: the strings whittled away to allow stabbing woodwind, discords a complete domination. That set a mood of stark pictorialism which was reinforced time and again, most notably in an incredibly swift "Lasset uns den heiligen Geisten", where for once the cellos' arpeggios sounded like the dice-rattling which the experts always tell us it is supposed to represent. Some of the fiddles' bowings seemed perversely fused here and there; but the decision to have the continuo sustain chords under Christ's pronouncements (elsewhere a fashionable bareness prevailed) was an inspired one.

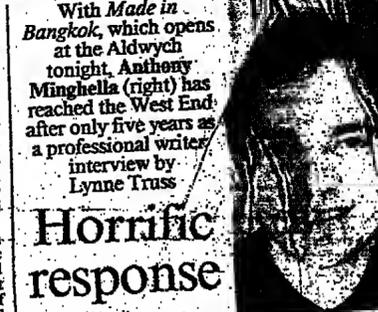
In that role Stephen Varcoe lacked weight but was admirably steady in tone and diction, and Anthony Rolfe Johnson's Evangelist was superbly sung, if erring towards the undemonstrative. For the evening's most impassioned singing, however, one looked to the dark-toned, powerful Pilatus of Cornelius Hauptmann, who was in exciting form.

In particular, the charged intensity of atmosphere in the outer movements seldom came across as it should, and the crisp rhythms of Ashkenazy's piano-playing did not this time transfer to his conducting as they usually do. Rachmaninov's music operates on a precise wavelength; maybe your critic was not able to tune into it accurately enough on this occasion. Certainly the audience response was very positive.
Malcolm Hayes

Watching Michael Blake-
more direct *Made in Bangkok* has been a revelation. "It seems best to say it, but you really only discover the play you have written when you sit in the rehearsal room and watch it happening." Blake-
more has strengthened the narrative and brought out the humour — "But what I've found is that it's a much darker play than I thought I was writing. Much, much darker. There's a rage in it." He wrote the play after a stop-off visit he made to the city on his way to Hong Kong. "I was — quite naively — horrified by Bangkok. Its effect was indelible on me, and when I came back, after having spent a month in Hong Kong, what was vestigial wasn't feelings about Hong Kong but about Thailand."

Made in Bangkok is about business as well as pleasure. It is not only sex that is for sale; Bangkok is rich in cheap, complaining, manufacturing labour too, and in both cases it is women who are exploited. The play is not, however, a shrill journalistic exposé, and Minghella stresses that its concerns are much wider. His point is that Bangkok makes manifest the corruption that the West depends on but prefers not to think about — people ruining their eyesight welding components for computers, for example. "All we have done in fact is shift the corruption six thousand miles away, but it's still there." And if the play points to the thinness of the divide between London and Bangkok it also challenges "liberal" western ideas about sexual behaviour — "you know, that if you unleash your inhibitions you have a healthier society". Some inhibitions, the play suggests, are much too dangerous to be let out.

"In terms of stagecraft it's a very conventional play. In fact Michael Blake more pointed out that, with all the doors and lifts, it's a traditional hotel play. It's got a departure it's in attempting an authenticity of language; I've tried to go for the sort of language you hear every day." People's speeches are often fractured and evasive, particularly at key moments when they are forced to discuss their sex-lives. "My curiosity about the bogging territory of people's privacy is probably deeply prurient, but in this case it obviously provides a motor for so much that goes on. I have, I think moved away from writing plays just about people in rooms. I want to write play now where what happens in private is only important in as far as it can nourish an understanding of something wider."



With *Made in Bangkok*, which opens at the Aldwych tonight, Anthony Minghella (right) has reached the West End after only five years as a professional writer. Interview by Lynne Truss

Horrific response

Really the most remarkable thing about the play is that it is being done here," says Anthony Minghella, indicating the plush surroundings of the Aldwych's circle bar. And he is right: his play *Made in Bangkok*, which opens tonight, is not conventional — West End fare.

Written to a commission from Michael Codron, *Made in Bangkok* means that Minghella has made it into the West End after just five years as a professional writer. In 1981, at the age of 27, he gave up a lectureship at Hull University, and since then he has made a living writing for both theatre and television. He has sometimes taken on too much, but then he admits to being a hard worker by upbringing.

An amiable and serious man, Minghella talks about his family with great affection, and it is not unreasonable to say that it is his influence, his love for the theatre, his family life he had on his work for example on *A Little Like Drowning* (at Greenwich in 1984), an ambitious play that chronicled an Italian family in England. But a more general and fundamental influence must be his admiration for the "formidable" women of his family, which is surely reflected in the attention he pays to women characters in his plays.

Indeed, probably his best known work to date, *Whale Music* was an extraordinarily perceptive play solely for and about women.

The play has now had productions on both television and radio, and has met with mixed responses; a lot of people have not liked it, while many of its supporters still have found it hard to believe it was written by a man. Minghella cannot accept that view: "It seems to me that the same imaginative leap is required to write a speech for any character, whether it's a man or a woman."

As if to prove the point, he started to write *Made in Bangkok* with the idea of not including a female role at all. It would be entirely about men's responses to a city that is recognized as a "sort of sexual supermarket". In the event though he has spread the interest equally between five characters, four men (played by Paul Shelley, Benjamin Whitrow, Peter McEnery and Christopher Fulford) and one woman (Felicity Kendal). His ensemble writing is one of his greatest strengths — "I love orchestrating big scenes" — but he does sometimes worry that he does not seem able to write big lead parts. "I sometimes try to, but I can never get away from the idea that, if there are eight people in a room, they all see themselves as central to the scene."

Rock

Steel Pulse

recorded sound that is now so well glossed as to be approaching an MOR formula. Their live production, while a bit punchier, was similarly devoid of any rude rootsy rumbling, depending more on Steve Nisbett's electronic drum sounds, and the sweet harmonies of David Hinds and Selwyn Brown, than on the pumping repetitive bass pattern of Alvin Ewen.

Where the lyrics coincided with this mellifluous approach, as in "Earth Crisis", the message of concern for mankind, and wish for human harmony, was well served; "Who Shall Save the Human Race?", with its gentle but heartfelt lilt, had all the hallmarks of a great modern spiritual song. But where the intent was harsher, as in "Rock Against Racism", the softly-softly approach seemed inappropriate to the cause. And

London débuts

Springy humour

Goran Listes and the virtuoso double bass player and guitarist Darko Petrijak, gave a correspondingly strange, though well played and well received, recital. Naturally arranged (by Petrijak) prevailed, a Vivaldi sonata, Ravel's ubiquitous *Pavane pour une infante défunte*, and most successfully, three of Dvorak's Slavonic Dances among them. But in these days of a supposed thaw in East-West relations it was fortunate that the planned world premiere of a new piece by the young Soviet composer Nikita Koshkin, called *The Dealer of Cicadas*, had to be postponed due to what were called "unclear and confusing circumstances".

Instead we were given the senior Yugoslav composer Boris Papadopol's Trio Sonata for two guitars and double bass, modestly neo-classical material with some exciting *motu perpetuo* writing, here skillfully executed.

Stephen Pettitt

Opera

Idomeneo

Whether in the far-flung dissonances of José Ardévol's Sonata, or in the more melodic, discursive duetting of Stephen Dodgson's Duo Concertante, she could create a wide spectrum of fluctuating timbres, even within a single phrase.

Disciplined by firmly sprung rhythms and coupled with a searching musical intelligence, this was playing which left one eager for more.

Hilary Finch

Concerts

Undue emotional restraint

Richard Morrison

Richard Morrison

RPO/Ashkenazy
Festival Hall

A rather oddly constituted concert, this: Sibelius's *Valse triste* as a miniature overture, the same composer's Fifth Symphony after the interval, Rachmaninov's Third Symphony before it, and not a phony before it, and not a soloist in sight. Far enough if Ashkenazy's performances had been consistently riveting, but that was not quite the case.

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SPECTRUM 1

The Chancellor's words this afternoon affect everyone's lives. Sarah Hogg explains

How to follow the Budget speech

<h3>ECONOMIC TARGETS</h3> <p>Economic growth, 1986 Last forecast: 3% Budget forecast: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Inflation through the year Last forecast: 3 3/4% Budget forecast: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Public borrowing, 1986-87 Previous target: £7 1/2 bn Budget target: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Oil revenues, 1986-87 Hoped for: £11 1/2 bn Now expecting: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Money targets, 1986-87 Previously: Sterling M3 +4%-8% M0 +2%-6% Budget targets: Sterling M3 <input type="text"/> M0 <input type="text"/> Other <input type="text"/></p> <p>Exchange rate <input type="text"/></p>	<h3>JOB AND INDUSTRY</h3> <p>National insurance rates Employees Budget 5% £38-£60 7% £60-£90 9% £95-£285</p> <p>Employers Budget 5% £38-£60 7% £60-£90 9% £95-£140 10.45% Over £140</p> <p>Changes to job programmes Community Programme Job Start YTS Job splitting/release Other Nationalised industries</p>	<h3>BUSINESS TAXES</h3> <p>VAT threshold: Neutral Budget: £20,500 Actual Budget: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Other VAT changes <input type="text"/></p> <p>Financial services tax <input type="text"/></p> <p>Corporation tax: Planned: rate down to 35%; capital allowances ended Other changes <input type="text"/></p> <p>Business sponsorship <input type="text"/></p> <p>Company car scales, 1987 <input type="text"/></p> <p>Loan Guarantee Scheme <input type="text"/></p> <p>Small business changes <input type="text"/></p>	<h3>POPULAR CAPITALISM</h3> <p>Changes in income tax reliefs for:</p> <p>Business Expansion Schemes <input type="text"/></p> <p>SAYE/share options <input type="text"/></p> <p>Profit-sharing <input type="text"/></p> <p>Direct share-buying <input type="text"/></p> <p>Stamp duty <input type="text"/></p> <p>CGT Threshold: Neutral Budget: £6,300pa Actual Budget: <input type="text"/></p> <p>CTT Threshold: Neutral Budget: £71,000 Actual Budget: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Other changes <input type="text"/></p>	<h3>SPENDING TAXES</h3> <p>Gallon of petrol: Neutral Budget: Up 5p Actual Budget: <input type="text"/></p> <p>20 cigarettes: Neutral Budget: Up 4 1/2p Actual Budget: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Pint of beer: Neutral Budget: Up 1p Actual Budget: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Bottle of whisky: Neutral Budget: Up 30p Actual Budget: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Car licence: Neutral Budget: Up £5.50 Actual Budget: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Other duties <input type="text"/></p> <p>VAT changes <input type="text"/></p>	<h3>INCOME TAX</h3> <p>Allowances, 1986-87 Single person (and married woman) Neutral Budget: Up £130 To £2,335 Actual Budget Up <input type="text"/></p> <p>Married man Neutral Budget: Up £200 To £3,655 Actual Budget Up <input type="text"/></p> <p>Threshold for 40% rate Neutral Budget: £17,100 Actual Budget: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Threshold for 60% rate Neutral Budget: £42,600 Actual Budget: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Starting rate of tax 1985-86: 30% 1986-87: <input type="text"/></p>	<h3>PERSONAL TAX BREAKS</h3> <p>Age allowances <input type="text"/></p> <p>Single parent's allowance <input type="text"/></p> <p>Disabled <input type="text"/></p> <p>Charitable donations <input type="text"/></p> <p>Other covenants <input type="text"/></p> <p>Mortgages <input type="text"/></p> <p>Pensions/life assurance <input type="text"/></p> <p>Social security <input type="text"/></p> <p>Health insurance <input type="text"/></p> <p>Other reliefs/allowances <input type="text"/></p>
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●The Chancellor's Budget predictions will give the first hint of how he reckons falling oil prices have altered our economic prospects. But the Treasury's last published forecast was already quite optimistic about growth and inflation this year - so listen for hints from the Chancellor of whether the Treasury is looking for better things in 1987.

The key Budget number is for the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR). Mr Lawson's published strategy allowed for borrowing of only £7 1/2 billion in 1986-87, but that was based on oil revenues of £11 1/2 billion. Watch out for a big change in the latter (down £5 billion?), justifying a much more modest change in borrowing.

Much bigger changes are expected in money targets. Sterling M3 is growing by 14% per cent a year on the latest figures, way over previous targets.

M0 - the narrowest definition of money - is more manageable, but other new targets are on the cards. Most interest attaches to the Chancellor's attitude to future membership of the European Monetary System.

●The "tax on jobs" - officially known as national insurance - has been a favourite target for Mrs Thatcher's Chancellors. Last year, Mr Lawson cut the starting rate to help the low-paid and their employers, but the new scales still leave a collection of awkward thresholds close to the bottom of the earnings scale. Watch out for further changes, which need not cost much if national insurance is unchanged or increased for the higher-paid. But the tax "green paper" is expected to rule out complete fusion of income tax and national insurance.

The Government's employment programmes are certain to be boosted in response to the latest rise in the dole queues. Watch out, in particular, for changes designed to cater for the long-term unemployed, and for a nationwide extension of the Government's "Jobstart" experiment. The table shows a variety of measures that may be extended.

Listen, too, for changes in the Chancellor's programme of asset sales, or at least hints of the order in which Mr Lawson is now planning to sell off nationalised industries to meet his privatisation targets.

●The threshold for VAT registration needs to be raised every year. Small businesses have been demanding a much bigger increase than the "neutral" figure shown in the table.

Financial companies will be listening with particular care. Big bank profits and high salaries have brought the City to the Prime Minister's attention again. A *quid pro quo* for lower stamp duty may be a new tax on this sector, though various avenues are closed to the Chancellor. Mr Lawson himself promised he would not tax "windfall" bank profits again, and a general VAT on financial services is against EEC rules.

Changes in corporation tax are already decreed, though the Chancellor will certainly rub home the message that the basic rate is now the lowest in the major industrial nations. Small businesses are looking for more help, and new tax scales for company cars are a hardy Budget annual.

One novelty may be a change in the business tax regime to encourage greater sponsorship of the arts by business.

●Mrs Thatcher's new theme: watch out for changes scattered through the Budget to give personal share ownership a boost. A major overhaul of the business expansion scheme, which gives income tax relief on up to £40,000 invested in qualifying companies, is promised. The various different incentives for employees to purchase shares in their own companies need to be brought closer together.

A cut in stamp duty on purchases of shares and other assets is widely expected; the surprise will be if Mr Lawson does not cut this by half to 1/2 per cent, to boost the City at a time of change and stimulate direct share ownership. The Chancellor may tinker with capital taxes under the same slogan. Capital Gains Tax, in particular, is widely criticised for complexity and ineffectiveness. Thresholds for CGT and CTT should anyway be raised in line with inflation. As for many other taxes, the table gives the figures that would leave the basic thresholds for these taxes the same as last year in "real terms".

●Excise duties loom large in Budget headlines. Unlike VAT, whose yield automatically rises with prices, the yield from fixed-rate duties falls in real terms if they are not raised in each Budget.

The table shows "neutral increases" that would bring the real value of duties back to where they were at the last Budget, and in the process restore nearly £700 million to government revenue, so you can judge whether the Chancellor is really raising the burden of tax on each item or simply level-pepping.

Since petrol prices are falling anyway, Mr Lawson is widely expected to grab a bit extra at the pump. Every extra penny per gallon yields about £50 million a year.

Other duties - on gambling, for example - attract less attention but are prime targets for budget tinkering. (The dog licence, for example, has been forecast for extinction for years, because it costs more to collect than it raises in revenue.) No major changes are expected in VAT coverage this year, after last year's argument.

●This is where the big money goes. Higher income tax thresholds are required by law, to make up for the effects of inflation on personal allowances. The table shows the figures for single and married allowances that would just do the job. Indexing thresholds in this way costs £1.4 billion if extended to all personal allowances. But this cost is built into the calculations of a "neutral" budget, which include adjustments for higher-rate thresholds: the table shows what is needed for the 40 per cent and 60 per cent rates.

Every extra £10 on all the main personal allowances costs over £70 million in lost revenue, but a cut in the basic rate of tax is far more expensive: every penny off costs £1.2 billion. Cutting the starting rate of tax (by introducing a lower-rate band) would be cheaper, but is a device previously abolished by the Thatcher government.

The future of income tax will be sketched in a "green paper" proposing transferable tax allowances for husbands and wives and the abolition of the married man's allowance.

●The main personal tax allowances and reliefs are likely to emerge unscathed, but listen for adjustments and additions. The Chancellor does not always increase the age allowances as much as the basic single and married ones, while single parents have been given special help in the past.

There is a wide variety of rather modest special reliefs (eg. for the blind) that occasionally attract the Chancellor's charity. But the most costly are tax relief on mortgage interest and pension schemes. The Chancellor's attempts to reduce the latter, however, came to nothing last year.

Strictly speaking, mortgage tax relief needs to be increased by £1,500 (to £31,500) if its value is not to be cut in real terms, but scepticism about the economic value of this relief means it will probably be left as it is.

A new possibility to listen out for - changes in the tax treatment of gifts to charities, to stimulate American-style private giving. Existing covenant arrangements oblige the giver to enter into a long-term commitment.

Shifts in perspective

To Liam Affley, a headmaster by profession, the first day off after a week's work on a night shift came like a bright beam of light after the darkness. "Without experiencing it, somebody from my background couldn't conceive of how it feels, to work in the dead of the night in the middle of winter, in those few hours before you can go home and to bed. I even became confused about what day of the week it was."

But by half-term he was chafing a confident path in his blue overalls, down the great half-mile arcade of British Steel's tinplate works at Trostre. Llanelli, as hurling cranes whined huge coils of rolled steel high above his head-hatted head.

And he was talking like a company man: "We have a strong corporate feeling here - there, I instinctively said 'we'..." His wife was busy in the supermarket, a loyal supporting consumer with a company-issue magnet, running it along the shelves in search of true British steel tins, rejecting any made in the rival aluminium.

His face beaming with the enthusiasm of the discoverer, Mr Affley explains how the individual coils are welded together into a seamless whole by a continuous process. "It's really very simple when you see it, but basic concepts like this are very difficult for children to grasp. How are you to tell them unless you have come here?"

Mr Affley is one of about 60 headmasters throughout the country who will take an industrial sabbatical this year under the CBI Education Foundation's Understanding Industry project. Now in its tenth year, it has been given a sharper relevance by industry Year.

Headmasters are learning some hard lessons on the shop floor in a CBI scheme designed to bring education and industry closer together



Man with a mission: Liam Affley at work

local authority, Dyfed, chose to work at Trostre, a short stroll from his school, St John Lloyd Comprehensive, because it encapsulated the whole range of business. It takes in the raw product, steel, from other BFC plants; it processes the steel, reducing it from 2mm thick to 0.2mm and sells it, mainly for canning, at home and abroad.

UBI negotiated his placement and BSC willingly accepted him, allowing him free access and a desk at which to write up his notes. After a week's induction course, he was on the shop floor.

He encountered neither resentment nor suspicion. "The company was very generous and hospitable. People couldn't show me enough, or tell me enough. Why certain acids were mixed, what this or

that process meant." In his turn he imparts advice to parents at Trostre with problems over their children's education.

The UBI project is designed to build up a body of people in key positions in education with first-hand knowledge of industry, who can pass their understanding on to their pupils.

Mr Affley believes there could be long term benefits both for the school and British Steel from his stay. "Initially I will percolate my experience down to my staff and to the children. It's my duty to make them aware of what goes on in a modern industry. I'll be able to tell them what their fathers do at work, when it's perfectly nar-

ral that they themselves don't want to talk about it after a hard day. I'll be able to tell them getting up early is no joke."

BSC may also benefit from his outsider's observations on how certain jobs are done. He is researching and helping to compile the commentary for an interactive video which BSC will use as a training aid. Even such a short stay in industry has modified his perception of the appropriate path for a child from school to career.

He says: "Three months ago I might have said a certain child should go to the sixth form or try for university. Now I would say it might be advisable for a child of average intellectual ability, who shows an inventive streak, to take any job in a company like this where promotion prospects are very good. I am sure that person would then move into higher grades very quickly. If they work hard they can get on and enjoy job satisfaction."

St John Lloyd Comprehensive can expect the return of a zealot, not a prodigal son next term. "I have a mission, a gospel message to pass on. There's a general awareness in this factory that there's a job to do, that they should do it, and perfectly. I want my pupils to know this."

"I've seen modern British industry in the shape of Trostre keeping abreast of technological innovation, gearing up to do the best for Britain. I'm sure the high standards and level of excellence I have seen here are mirrored in factories up and down the country. What we have here is the basis for a revival in British industry."

Gareth Huw Davies



THE BUDGET

Tomorrow

Eight pages of news and analysis, with the Budget speech in full and the main points analysed

CHRISTIE'S WEEK IN VIEW

A selection from our 15 sales in London this week.

Important English and Foreign Silver, Objects of Vertu and Miniatures: Wednesday, 19th March at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m., King Street: A magnificent wine cooler and plateau modelled by John Flaxman and Edward Hodges Baily highlight the silver section of this sale. Other important pieces include a pair of candelabra by Paul Storr made in 1826 and a fine soup tureen and cover after the Warwick Vase by Matthew Boulton and Co. of 1827.

Among several sets of dinner plates are 36 made for Sarah Jennings, 1st Duchess of Marlborough, in 1740. This sale also includes gold and silver snuff boxes and of particular London interest, a silver-mounted tortoise-shell box applied with the Westminster Magistrates badge introduced by George III in 1763. The afternoon session comprises a varied selection of portrait miniatures and silhouettes.

Continental Pictures and Drawings of the 19th and 20th Centuries: Friday, 21st March at 10.30 a.m., King Street: The highlight of this sale is an album of works assembled in the 1850s by Krause, the Berlin collector. The album is devoted mainly to mid-19th century Berlin artists and all the watercolours in it are in exceptionally fine condition, not least among them being a work by Adolf Menzel titled *Im Freien*. Other important pieces in the sale include a self-portrait by Anders Zorn and two watercolours by Carl Larsson, whose work in this medium recently topped the £100,000-mark at Christie's.

Impressionist, Modern and Contemporary Paintings, Sculpture, Drawings and Watercolours: Tuesday, 25 March at 11.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m., King Street: This sale comprises a wide and varied selection of decorative pictures and sculpture. Estimates range from £300 to £40,000. Of particular interest is a pastel by Louis Anquetin *Le Foyer de Theatre*, the model for

this work is also thought to appear in the work of Toulouse-Lautrec. Among the many artists represented in this sale are works by Boudin, van Rysselberghe, Utrillo, Modigliani and Sculpture by Diego Giacometti, Mané-Katz and Dali.

Orders, Decorations and Campaign Medals, Awards and Royal Presentation Pieces to Sir Henry M. Stanley: Tuesday, 25th March at 11.00 a.m., King Street: The Orders, Medals and Royal Presentation pieces conferred on one of the major figures of 19th century exploration in Africa, Sir Henry Morton Stanley, GCB, are to be sold on behalf of the explorer's grandson. In addition to the numerous awards from Geographical and Historical Societies in the United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Italy and Sweden the sale also includes three Royal Presentation pieces: a gold and diamond-encrusted oval snuff box from Queen Victoria; a presentation jewel bearing a miniature of Queen Victoria within a gold and diamond-studded setting, and a rectangular cigar case in silver, from Albert Edward, Prince of Wales.

Postage Stamps of the British Empire: Tuesday, 25th March at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. and Wednesday, 26th March at 10.30 a.m. at Robson Lowe, Duke Street: British Empire will include Colonial die proofs, Ascension, British Columbia, Gibraltar and Malta the latter with rare and valuable postal history as well as the collection formed by Leslie Wheeler former President of the Royal Philatelic Society of London.

Viewing: King Street: Weekdays 9 a.m. - 4.45 p.m. Enquiries: (01) 839 9060

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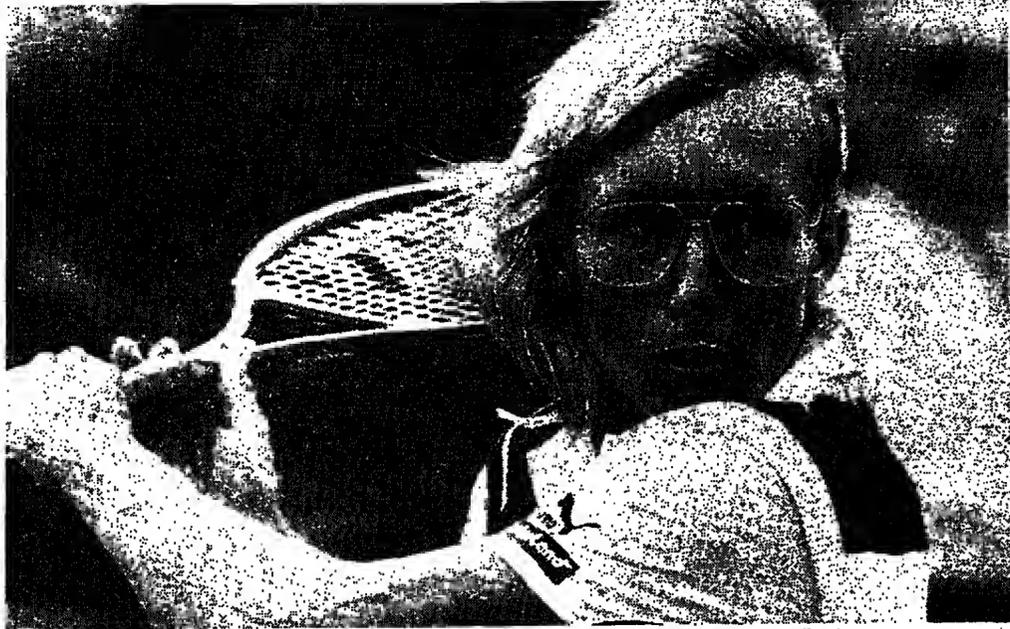


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The Virginia Slims finals in New York this week provide the latest setting for one of the greatest rivalries in tennis history

Celestial twins of the centre court

In the first of a two-part series, Richard Evans charts Martina Navratilova's rise to fame and the friendship that grew from her battles with Chris Evert Lloyd



Navratilova, with two eyes on the target: to become the greatest player who ever lived

One talks of stars and superstars in tennis, but in these terms Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert Lloyd must be said to form a constellation of their own.

The unlikely origin of this phenomenon was Akron, Ohio, where almost 13 years ago to the day they met for the first time at a little indoor arena in front of a few hundred spectators.

There have, of course, been other great rivalries in tennis. The many duels between Margaret Court and Billie-Jean King in the late 1960s come closest in the women's game for longevity and excellence.

As a teenager in Prague Navratilova knew about Lloyd from tennis magazines sent to her by a cousin in Canada.

So far this year Navratilova has won four tournaments, had 'lu and been caught with a gun. It is the gun - detected in her hand luggage during routine security screening at San Francisco Airport - that has created the biggest headlines.

Her Americanization did not take long. From the moment she arrived there she was caught up in its whirl of hype, riches and excess.

"We all took a long time," Jaroslav Drobný, who won Wimbledon at the age of 33, told me recently.

It took some strong personalities to lead Navratilova away from the path of temptation. Apart from Dr Haas and his nutritional diet, the two who mattered were Nancy Lieberman, a boisterous American feminist from the world of basket-ball, and Renee Richards, the transsexual doctor soon to be portrayed by Vanessa Redgrave in a television film of her life.

tennis history, remembers of the battles that raged from 1924 to 1930 between the American Bill Tilden and one of France's "Four Musketeers", Jean Borotra.

Yet an almost total absence of acrimony has been one of the most notable aspects of the current rivalry. In call the women close friends would be to simplify a complicated relationship, but the fact remains that each player has inspired and improved the other.

"She's obsessed", Pam Shriver, Navratilova's regular doubles partner,

ner, says of Lloyd. "With Martina the motivation tends to go up and down now. I suppose she's becoming more human or something. But with Chris it is constant. I've never seen a competitor like her. She just won't let go."

That much becomes clear from a quick study of the head-to-head records. Lloyd was so dominant at the start that she was leading 24-4 at the beginning of 1979. Then Navratilova beat her for the second year in a row in the Wimbledon final and closed the gap to 28-14 by early 1981 despite a shattering 6-0-6-0 loss to the American base-liner on clay in the WTA Championships.

Navratilova reacted to that by winning a desperately close three-set

struggle in the semi-finals of the US Open that same year, a victory that set her off on an amazing run of success against her great rival. In 20 matches the Czech-born left-hander lost only twice and, when the unbeaten sequence had stretched to 13 consecutive matches, many former champions would have pocketed their pride and called it a day.

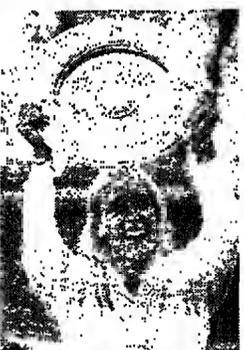
Lloyd's answer was to head for the gym, reach for the weights and quickly earn the rewards that come from greater strength and physical well-being by beating Navratilova 6-2, 6-4 in the Virginia Slims of Florida in 1985. That was soon followed -

by the match that caught the public imagination like no other, a thrilling

duel in the French Open last June which Lloyd won 7-5 in the third set with a backhand winner up the line that will be remembered for as long as tennis is played at Stade Roland Garros.

Far from fading away to have babies with John Lloyd, she had suddenly closed the gap and was fully competitive again with the only player who really mattered. Even though Navratilova won both their remaining matches of 1985, in the finals of Wimbledon and the Australian Open, she lost a set in both on the surface that is supposed to favour her most, grass.

So the score stands emphatically at 35-32 in Navratilova's favour. Can Lloyd catch up? In Dallas last week I looked for the answer.



Martina Navratilova 'I look forward to the day when we can share a bottle of wine'

Lieberman got Navratilova fit and Richards, who made history by earning the right to play on the women's circuit, taught her some truths about the technicalities of the game. Richards did not, however, survive the humiliating defeat Navratilova suffered at the hands of Kathy Horvath at the French Open of 1983. That setback prompted her to look for a new coach. She bypassed the obvious candidates and approached Mike Estep, a bright, politically active member of the ATP, the men players' union.

Estep had not achieved anything startling during a long career on the professional circuit and had never coached a top player, but he lived near Navratilova in the Dallas area and was a keen student of the attacking kind of game she knew lay within her capabilities.

"She had already won so much that I didn't know what I could do for her", Estep said. "So I asked her what she wanted; what she was aiming for." She told him she wanted to become the greatest player who ever lived.

Feeling Lloyd's shadow at her shoulder, Navratilova knew that mere physical might would not be enough. "So bit by bit we had to make technical changes", Estep said. "She used to have several different grips on the forehand. Now she had settled on the Continental grip which not many players use today."

Details would be worked out in long practice sessions which Navratilova enjoyed, but on one point Estep would not compromise. He insisted that this magnificent athlete should use her physical attributes to the full.

"Basically, that means forgetting the base-line stuff and playing like a man", he said. "It means getting to the net as soon as you get a short ball. As the first time you see a short ball in a rally is on a weak second serve I told Martina to get in right then. Chip and charge. Why wait? You're seldom going to get a better opportunity."

It was this switch to all-out assault that propelled Navratilova through the latter part of her long winning streak against Lloyd and, in turn, set up the second phase of their rivalry by forcing Lloyd to go back to the drawing board.

But as the glare of the spotlight became greater and the intensity of their rivalry increased, so tensions strained the friendship. Already their lifestyles were too different for them to spend much time socializing. Now off-the-cuff remarks made in press conferences by one about the other started to rankle. Privately, both have been hurt by them.

Nevertheless, the respect has remained and Navratilova, the most naturally outpacing of the two, still

talks of the way they can relate to each other when the pressure is off. "It is not just girl-talk when we are together", she told Peggy Gossett, who travels the circuit as spokeswoman for the Women's Tennis Association. "We get right into the very, very personal part of our lives. I feel I can tell her anything and she feels the same way. I think. We've seen each other so vulnerable on the court and shared so many intense moments that we can open up without any boldding back."

"Opening up" has always been a little easier for Navratilova, which is why she will always be the most controversial of the two. Her private relationships with women were discussed frankly in her autobiography, but even so some of her friends were surprised, though not shocked, when they received a Christmas card featuring a picture of Judy Nelson, the ex-wife of a Dallas doctor, and herself. Along with a cat and an assortment of dogs, the couple now share a four-bedroom house in Fort Worth, styled to Navratilova's specifications in art deco designs and colours.

It is from here that she pursues her interests outside tennis, involving herself with a variety of charitable activities, including a local orphanage, women's rights and conservation. Concern for others is as much part of Martina as her occasional acts of arrogance. Complex, if no longer complicated, Martina Navratilova is already preparing herself for that day when beating Chris Evert Lloyd is no longer her primary concern. In the foreseeable future - she will try to become the greatest player who ever lived. Statistically, however, she still has a long way to go, starting with this year's attempt to equal Dorothy Lambert Chambers's record of seven Wimbledon singles titles.

GAMES, SETS AND MATCH POINTS

Table with columns: Year, Winner, Site, Surface, Rnd, Score, Agg. It lists tennis matches between Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert Lloyd from 1973 to 1986.

*Career won-lost *Aggregate shows Navratilova's victories first

Tomorrow "No matter what happens now while we are still competing, the basic friendship will survive. I know if I had a real personal problem I could go to Martina and she would respond."

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 902. Includes crossword puzzle grid and list of clues.

How Heathrow is trying to do its duty

Revolutionary new methods are now being employed to cash in on the travelling executive

When it opens in April, Heathrow's fourth terminal will offer the latest in airport thinking - a spacious interior, widespread use of natural light and functional design that are in their own way revolutionary.

The real object of excitement in the trade, however, is the duty-free shopping area. This has been designed in scale and sophistication to make even more money out of an activity that has already put the British Airports Authority in the top 20 of the country's retailers.

The BAA, which runs seven airports including Heathrow, is the envy of airport authorities around the world for the shrewd way it has exploited the duty-free market.

The tax-free sales area at Heathrow's Terminal 2, for example, claims the highest sales per square metre of any shop in the world - higher even than the famous Marks and Spencer branch in Oxford Street.

For the BAA, shortly due to follow British Airways into privatization, duty and tax-free sales provide the backbone of income. In the last financial year it earned £179 million from commercial activities, mainly the duty-free shops, increasing commercial division profitability by 24 per cent to £96 million.

But while Heathrow made a profit of £60.5 million on this account, the airport business itself made a loss of £1 million. Without the money made from duty-free Scotch goods, fashion, luggage,

"By the very nature of their lifestyle these people have no opportunity to shop in the normal way", he says. "If you put them in a hypermarket



Heathrow International Shopping Centre

To make the most of the opportunities at Terminal 4, the authority turned to Fitch & Co, one of whose directors, Alan Mackinnon, has become something of a guru to the international airport shopping industry.

He believes that sales of duty-free liquor and tobacco have reached their limit and that the future lies in tax-free sales to travelling executives: cosmetics, perfume, electronic goods, fashion, luggage.

Mackinnon began a system where perfumes were grouped in three areas: perfumes up to £30, from £30 to £50, and £50 upwards, and in different groups: sophisticated perfumes in one area, romantic perfumes in another and "lifestyle" perfumes (like Charlie) in a third group.

Fitch & Co have done the interior design work on Terminal 4, but the duty-free and tax-free sales areas have been designed and laid out by the British Airports Authority itself.

When the terminal opens, travellers will discover the duty-free sales area is a zone within the tax-free area; you will not be able to nip in to buy a bottle of Scotch without passing through the tax-free area twice.

Also, for the first time, the duty and tax free sales areas will be closely integrated with the bar, cafeteria and newsagent, so that travellers will

move naturally from one area to the other.

The authority wants to create the ambience of a Harrods sale - "a luxurious, quality environment with people falling over themselves to save money on branded goods", says Allan Blacher, the BAA's commercial development director.

The obstacle in the path of the efforts to increase sales is the quite widespread belief that all duty and tax free sales are an enormous confidence trick.

The authority has done careful research on passengers in departure lounges who have not bought anything from the duty and tax free shops. "The most common answer is that there's not much to be saved", Blacher says. "When we ask them how much they think the saving actually is, they have no idea."

Upholstered Furniture. An exceptional exhibition of fine British upholstered furniture including Collins and Hayes, Duresta, Sanderson and Sinclair Melson. Open daily until 18th April.

Is this the only kind of bird your children watch? If so, then you should give them a gift of a year's membership to The Young Ornithologists' Club.

FASHION by Suzy Menkes



Norman Hartnell ready-to-wear, left: mannish tailoring. Right: puff ball skirt. Photographs by Harry Kerr

After Hartnell

The late, great Sir Norman Hartnell never designed anything that a lady might wear for breakfast. His world was the great occasion and the grand gown. But what are Ladies who Lunch to do about the new Hartnell ready-to-wear collection?

There is a little something for after six - a slither of rose-pink satin here, a slip of velvet and ottoman silk there. The cocktail section was what you might call a canapé of a collection, small, shapely and with not much to bite on.

This was the contribution of Victor Edelstein, one of three designers called in to revitalise the House of Hartnell.

Joint collections are like group photographs: it is hard to get everybody looking good and the result is often blurred. It was quite clear in this case

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIONS LONDON

Mixing a fresh cocktail of British designers for the Eighties

who had designed what. The South African Alahni McRae had produced high evening clothes which were unrelentingly black and gave a nod to the famous Hartnell embroideries, mostly by tying ropes of beads round the waist.

The long daywear section was by Sheridan Barnett, and therein lay the problem. At a moment when the fashion world in general, and all the leading London designers, are inspired by the sophistication of *haute couture*, Barnett

chose perversely to stick to his androgynous tailored daywear. This is a look that Armani in Italy does superbly, but requires a lightness in tailoring, luxurious and inventive fabrics and superb make. None of these things appeared on the Hartnell runway, although there were some good, strong, simple shapes for tailored tweed jackets and dark corduroy coats.

The recent Norman Hartnell exhibition at Brighton should have shown his

relevance to a new generation that is longing to dress up again. I doubt whether any of the three designers had turned a page of Sir Norman's biography *Silver and Gold*, which is both an entertaining book and a statement of his fashion philosophy, which was to make women look the charming, delicate, romantic creatures he believed we are.

I do not see the point of refurbishing Hartnell's faded grandeur, without taking his own work as a frame of reference. Karl Lagerfeld has revitalised Chanel by steeping himself in Mademoiselle's own work and moving on from there. Of the three Hartnell designers, two sank to the occasion. Only Edelstein might be able to produce something worthy of the master's memory.

Curvy cuts by Muir

This is a vintage season for Jean Muir, who has always believed that cut is all-important - and knows more about it than the rest of the London designers put together.

She showed tailoring shaped on the curve: lapels lapping the throat, seamlines shaping the bust and hemlines rounded off. A new dress shape, with soft pensiers of fabric at the hip, showed off couture tricks. So did the flirty peplum jackets and coats, with *godets* of fabric cut in like butter. The Jean Muir knits are now a great strength, shaped to the body which was very much on show as sweaters were worn over leggings and shirred fabric gripped the hips.

In a season when dark colours dominate, Jean Muir, who took her curtain-call in her perennial navy, showed alarming shades of orange, emerald and chrome yellow alongside classic colours.

The Muir collection, now backed by the Coats Paton group, is balanced by an enlarged Studio Collection shown separately.



Jean Muir's fresh knits worn with narrow leggings

CHAIN REACTION



Sending up Mile Chanel is the fun story in London. The chain-reaction at Joseph Tricot brought us elongated knits interlaced with gilded "Chanel" chains, as well as printed with *trompe l'oeil* crosses in the manner of Madonna, who was the star guest in the audience.

Just in case we did not get the message, Joseph also sent up the entire emphasis on Parisian chic in current fashion. Sharp red and white knits, bordered with white à la Chanel, were sent out as a neck couture collection with no music and the models carrying numbered cards.

Zandra Rhodes also used chains for a Chanel spoof, printing them on silky black jersey dresses (above) that were cut close to the body like all her newer clothes.

But Zandra is first and last a fabric designer and decorator. Her prints this season were inspired by the Great Barrier Reef, and an underwater kingdom of froths and fish were printed onto her chiffon dresses which had tiny starfish hanging from the hem.

YOUNG ONES

The knee-length slim skirts which were a strong look on the catwalks are rivalled by Stephanie Cooper's long full-skirted dresses with cinched-in waists in navy blue or black. The riding coat survives another season, with double rows of Chanel-look shiny buttons by Jane Stott.

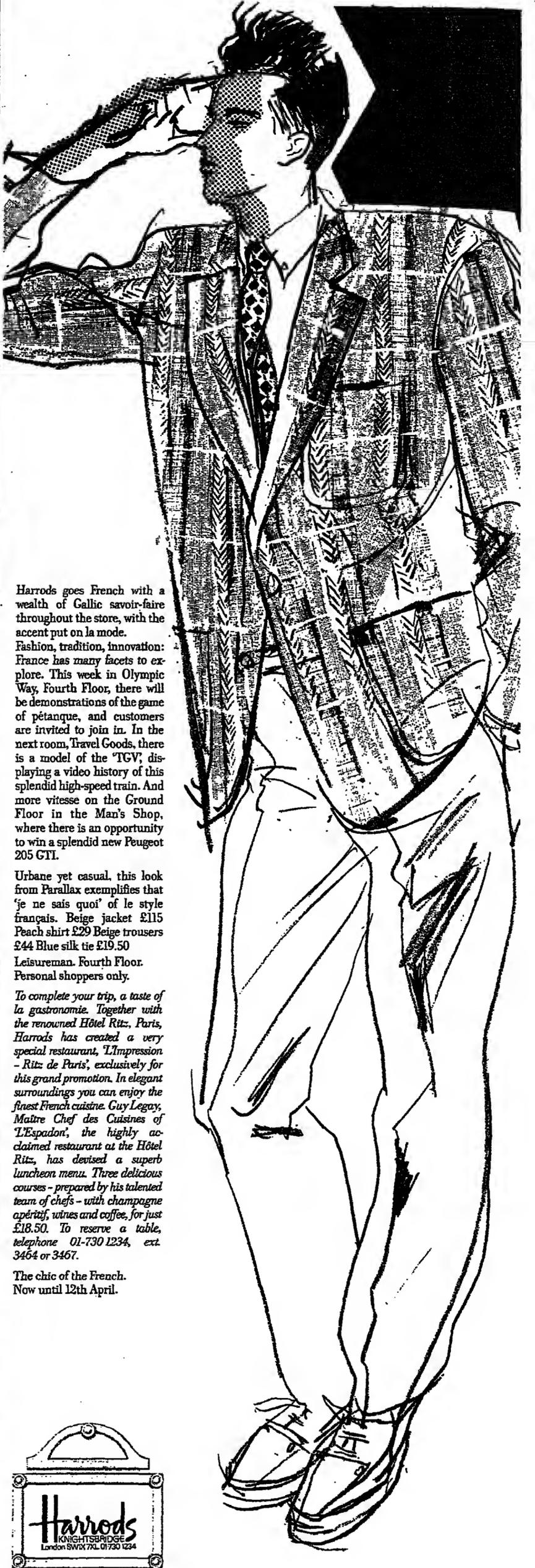
Monty Don Jewellery brings Parisian chic to our lapels with diamond poodle and butterfly brooches. The original 1950s

handbag is recreated in smooth black leather, an essential accessory for the little black suit. Hearts and flowers were a sweeter story from Gary Wright and Sheila Teague.

Country cousins wear baggy eskimo sweaters with reindeer and Christmas trees from Artwork; Ally Capellino goes nautical with mariniot sweaters, sailor collars and anchors knitted into thick wool jackets.

Rebecca Tyrrel

C'EST HARRODS AVEC L'ACCENT FRANÇAIS



Harrods goes French with a wealth of Gallic savoir-faire throughout the store, with the accent put on la mode.

Fashion, tradition, innovation: France has many facets to explore. This week in Olympic Way, Fourth Floor, there will be demonstrations of the game of pétanque, and customers are invited to join in. In the next room, Travel Goods, there is a model of the 'TGV', displaying a video history of this splendid high-speed train. And more vitesses on the Ground Floor in the Man's Shop, where there is an opportunity to win a splendid new Peugeot 205 GTI.

Urbane yet casual, this look from Parallax exemplifies that 'je ne sais quoi' of le style français. Beige jacket £115 Peach shirt £29 Beige trousers £44 Blue silk tie £19.50

Leisureman. Fourth Floor. Personal shoppers only.

To complete your trip, a taste of la gastronomie. Together with the renowned Hôtel Ritz, Paris, Harrods has created a very special restaurant, L'Impression - Ritz de Paris, exclusively for this grand promotion. In elegant surroundings you can enjoy the finest French cuisine. Guy Legay, Maître Chef des Cuisines of L'Espadon, the highly acclaimed restaurant at the Hôtel Ritz, has devised a superb luncheon menu. Three delicious courses - prepared by his talented team of chefs - with champagne apéritif, wines and coffee, for just £18.50. To reserve a table, telephone 01-730 1234, ext. 3464 or 3467.

The chic of the French. Now until 12th April.



THE TIMES DIARY

Jeane's big scene

Inside sources in Washington tell me that former UN ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick is being groomed as running mate to George Bush in the 1988 presidential election.

Donald Treford spotted my piece on Mirror managing editor Jo Foley's resignation that he rang to offer her the editorship of his color magazine. I'm on 10 per cent, Donald.

Last laugh

Martin Rogers, head of King Edward's School in Birmingham, could be forgiven for rueing the day he allowed John Clee into his school hall to film the final scene in the film Clockwise.

Small-minded

Showman satirist Ned Sherrin is moaning that the GLC is doing less than nothing to publicize his musical Small Expectations, to be staged at the Queen Elizabeth Hall as part of the GLC abolition festivities this Easter.

Signing off

A BBC Northern Ireland TV crew spent Sunday filming Irish Foreign Minister Peter Barry in Cork, Brussels and Dublin. At the end of their assignment Barry showed his appreciation with a memento for every member of the team.

Stoop conquers

A reader tells me that "Gorby Daily" (Diary last week) is not the only American to make a name for himself over here.

Borderline

Social Democrat, the Alliance's official organ, shows how Shirley Williams is not thinking so big these days. In a back-page article by David Owen, the leader argues passionately for Scottish home rule.

Lost cause

Here's a good human-rights bandwagon for the GLC to leap on before it goes under: a government which, according to an Amnesty International report, subjects opposition leaders to "intimidation and harassment" and trade unionists to repeated spells of detention.

Platanares Less than 15 miles away from this mountain hamlet in northern Nicaragua, behind the protection of the Honduran border, thousands of "contra" rebels contemplate the possibility of extinction.

For the peasant inhabitants of Platanares, the vote in Washington means the difference between peace and war. Fourteen months ago, the contras were rampant in this part of the country, making regular hit-and-run raids across the border.

The local inhabitants, shackled too preoccupied with subsisting to take sides in the fighting, lived in permanent fear of being caught in crossfire.

In March last year the 70,000-strong Soviet-equipped Sandinista Popular Army, showing the fruits of Cuban training, began a determined sweep.

Diogenes, asked why he had been begging for money from a statue, replied, "I am practising disappointment", and it would not be surprising if the management of News International (R. Murdoch, prop.) felt much the same.

Well, if they will not give, I can take. Let me first remind you of the condition of Fleet Street as the ship, its lights dimmed and engines muffled, with nothing but the skull and crossbones fluttering from the mast to indicate who was aboard.

And now? Mr Conrad Black, despite suggestions that the cure might be worse than the disease, has bought the Telegraph negotiations have been opened for an agreement that will mean, when the Telegraph moves to its dockland site, that the Spanish Practices will be left behind.

Next door, Mr Stevens has spoken even more bluntly; he says that if he doesn't halve his workforce, and soon, he will close the papers down.

Mr Maxwell himself, displaying all the calm of a jumping bean in a Force Nine gale, has been sacking his workforce three times a day before meals and reinstating them no less frequently with the pudding.

Pronunciation is a feature of English that permits even more variety than orthography, grammar, semantics, or vocabulary. We are different about criticizing other men's pronunciation these days.

Some regional pronunciations have a lowly status, particularly those that diverge pronouncedly from the average: for example, thick Ulster, in which a lake means a hole in a kettle, and braid Glescaranto, in which "Amphora" is an expression of choice, as in, "Amphora glessna pint", which

John Carlin visits northern Nicaragua: peace now but war never far away

Will Congress bail out the contras?

London. But it is too soon to say the war is over. Iliterate but undevoted, a middle-aged father of nine draws nods all around when he says: "The war's not over because they are organizing it from outside."

Diplomats in Managua have variously described the contras as "hillbillies", "a ragtag army and a shambling crowd". Their leaders, many of whom live in Miami, are often perceived as loud and at times, criminally incompetent.

Regan's analogy on Friday between the contras and a British needing US help against Nazi Germany led to dismay in Managua diplomatic circles where there is a growing perception of a yawning gap between US rhetoric and the reality.

In an interview this week, a senior diplomat said Washington believes that Nicaragua's three million people are in a ferment, poised for revolt against the government in the manner of

Haiti or the Philippines; acting on this supposition, US policy makers believe that only a moderate contra presence inside Nicaragua - which is all that the requested \$100 million could realistically hope to achieve - will serve as a catalyst for the overthrow of the Sandinistas.

But in Platanares, people see things differently. Some, certainly, are resentful, having been forcibly evicted by the Sandinista army last year from their smallholdings in contra areas.

In Managua, where a third of the country's three million people live, there is thought to be more discontent than in the countryside. But discontent is still a long way from active support for the contras who, having never penetrated the capital, remain an alien quantity.

Even Sandinista analysts, however, accept that popular support for the government is probably lower now than it was in elections in November 1984, when President Daniel Ortega won 67 per cent of the national vote. But, as an experienced European dip-

lomat noted, the Sandinistas are losing support not because they are "tyrannical" as Washington claims but for the reasons that governments the world over lose support: because the country's economy is a shambles, because wages are lagging far behind inflation of 250 per cent.

People grumble a great deal, but, save perhaps for the embittered minority middle class, they are not calling for Ortega's head.

Furthermore, the government has mounted a persuasive campaign through the controlled press to convince the people that without "Yankee imperialist aggression", Nicaragua's economic problems would not exist.

The theory that subsequent discontent would rebound against the Sandinistas may be correct. But there are no grounds for believing that the contras would simultaneously gain political support. In fact, the Sandinistas appear to be successfully fixing in the popular consciousness a cause and effect link between the contras and rising prices.

In strictly military terms, prospects look bleak for the contras, even if President Reagan does get the money through Congress on Thursday. Border hamlets like Platanares will suffer, but nationally the contras' presence will scarcely be felt.

The question now, long asked by the Sandinistas themselves and increasingly raised by alarmed European and Latin American diplomats, is whether, once confronted with the failure of the contras, Regan will be forced to follow the logic of his rhetoric and send in the marines.

Digby Anderson

When vox is really pop

It's not Birmingham council's fault that it reminded me of the day Monica Sherrington exploded. I was all set to tell you about the council's plan to tackle disputes between neighbours.

A psychologist, Guy Cumberbatch of Aston University, brought in to report on it, urges the setting up of "mediation" (where else but in "mediation centres"?) and the training of housing officers in "conflict management methods".

London's Borough of Newham already has such a "mediation centre" run by its "conflict and change project" in which neighbours are encouraged to "bring out" animosities which are "in their minds. It's a wonder that we owner-occupiers, deprived of centres and sensitive bureaucrats, have managed to avoid civil war - "ongoing" civil war.

Of course we have, as do public-sector tenants, environmental nuisance laws to protect us, and common sense to work out how loudly we shouldn't play Manon Lescau on Saturday nights. Obviously something rather different from either is meant by "mediation". I suspect that however laudable the researchers' and councils' intentions, the centres will attract their share of Bingsists.

More mature readers will remember Bing. It was a highly carbonated drink having some distant connection with oranges and lemons - there was red Bing and white Bing. Because it was so fizzy, the bottles were fitted with a cap with a metal release. If you shook the bottle vigorously and then undid the cap quickly, you could make a loud pop which children and grown-up children greatly enjoyed.

Bingsists believed that people are like Bing bottles. All shaken, seething and about to explode if pressure is not released by talking. People's problems, whether they be about neighbours, the in-laws or failing the driving test, are not problems of not talking about their "problems" of neighbours, in-laws or failing the driving test.

Barbara, a confirmed Bingsist, complains regularly that Monica's problem (in fact Monica's husband, Harold's eccentric mother wanting to come and live with them) was not the problem at all. The real problem was that

Monica hadn't "talked about it" or that she wouldn't talk about it. She "needed" to talk about it.

Indeed she was in danger of "bottling it up". It was fermenting inside her and if she went on like this "some day it will all come out and be very messy". If only she could let it out gently, talk it through and share it then it would be as good as solved.

This was despite the fact that Monica had told us all about Harold's mother long ago. Talking, for Bingsists like Barbara, is not a summary of the essential facts but a long-range imaginative haul: "If only she could sit down (I've never understood if the solution works if the parties are upright) and talk it over."

One day Monica - I suspect to please Barbara - went pop and "let it out". Actually there was only a faint hiss and it did no good at all except to embolden Barbara. Nobody learned anything new. The relation of the problem changed nothing. Barbara should consult her Wittgenstein, who said of philosophy that it "leaves everything as it is".

Bingsism goes beyond the common-sense idea that talking about a problem can be informing or comforting. Nor should it be confused with giving advice. I saw Monica letting it out and Barbara offered no advice. She sat there with her mouth half open, gazing at Monica with a stammering sort of way with a stammering smile. Most of the time she nodded but every now and then she pursed her lips and said "Yes" for no obvious reason, or "Mmmh, Monica".

No, Bingsists believed that the cultic act of describing a problem to another human being makes it disappear. Sometimes their talk contains the occasional stinger of information but often it is pure "interpersonal relations". I am told of two Bingsist university lecturers who pride themselves on developing "conflict-free" residential courses.

Bingsists are well entrenched with their seductive offer: "Surely it might help to try and talk about it?" Indeed sometimes it does. But sometimes it doesn't. We need to balance the blandishments of the Bingsists by rehearsing, perhaps to begin with alone in front of a mirror, some nearly forgotten phrases from the Frigates.

Start with "It's not my business. You'll have to sort it out." "Pull yourself together." Or, if you are not ready for that yet try "Bearing about it is not going to solve anything" or "Why are you telling me this? It is surely a matter between you and your neighbour." The author is director of the Social Affairs Unit.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now



Our liferaft but you're all welcome

or out, for even with the new technology this newspaper takes fully 20 minutes to print.) But however excitable his behaviour, his aim is clear: he needs more manning reductions than he has so far achieved, and plans to get them in Scotland.

The story of the Guardian is in some ways the most remarkable of all. It has been like those car advertisements that claim for the vehicle being promoted that it can go from immobility to a speed rather more than twice that of light in 3.5 seconds.

Like everybody else, I have heard the rumours of a substantial cut in all or some of News International's cover prices and advertising rates. I have no idea whether the rumours are true, but it is obvious that any such move would strike deep into the heart of the opposition. And the rumours I have heard, the opposition has heard also.

Say there

means, "If you twist my arm, I shall accept a large whisky and a pint of heavy." Another word that is changing its sound is "consortium". During the Westland party games, both the Prime Minister and Leon Brittan kept saying "consortium". At first I thought they were just having trouble with their teeth. Then I took it to be yet another result of the disastrous decline in the study of Latin in the United Kingdom.

among News International's rivals. The really astounding development is to be found in the way the print unions are now concluding agreements, some of which may even be kept for a time, on terms, especially as regards workforce reductions, that would have been inconceivable as recently as last Christmas.

As a sign of a sudden access of sanity, this new attitude is to be generally welcomed; indeed, I am quite sure it has been welcomed. But let me not doubt that the lunacy would have continued if it had not been for the sound of the clock striking eleven. If Dr Johnson was right in thinking that the prospect of being hanged in a fortnight concentrates a man's mind wonderfully, it must follow a fortiori that even greater concentration will result from the prospect of being boiled to death very slowly in a week.

As I have always maintained, the man who makes a hole in the hedge gets scratched, but those who go through it after him feel no discomfort. It may be that, as Messrs Black, Stevens, Rothermere and the rest go through the hole, they experience a warm glow of gratitude to the man they can see disappearing towards the horizon with bamboos sticking out of him all over. If so, I conclude that if they fail to express that gratitude, it can only be because of shyness.

Two of the biggest worries on Mrs Thatcher's menu at the moment are the British car industry and the Sellafield nuclear processing plant. She is being urged on the one hand not to sell the British motor industry to the Americans, on the other hand to close down Sellafield, which is leaking and dangerous.

moreover... Miles Kington

Two of the biggest worries on Mrs Thatcher's menu at the moment are the British car industry and the Sellafield nuclear processing plant. She is being urged on the one hand not to sell the British motor industry to the Americans, on the other hand to close down Sellafield, which is leaking and dangerous.

Two of the biggest worries on Mrs Thatcher's menu at the moment are the British car industry and the Sellafield nuclear processing plant. She is being urged on the one hand not to sell the British motor industry to the Americans, on the other hand to close down Sellafield, which is leaking and dangerous.

The government has taken these two problems very seriously and has now come up with a solution. The solution, however, is very far from what the pundits or the public expect, about as far as it is possible to go.

Our information is that the Tory government intends to close down the British car industry and to sell Sellafield to the Americans. The reasoning behind this is quite logical. The criticism of Sellafield, and indeed of all nuclear plants, is that the danger to life and limb involved is the paramount consideration. And, indeed, every year a few people die and a few diseases are contracted which can be put down to nuclear energy.

At the same time nearly 6,000 people die in accidents on the road. What this means is that the motor industry is astronomically more dangerous than the nuclear industry. Indeed, the motor industry is more dangerous than modern war; British deaths in the Falklands during the war with Argentina were fewer than deaths on British roads during the same time.

Budget Special: the Chancellor's timetable

8 am: Chancellor awakes with an odd feeling that he has to do something important this afternoon. 9 am: Reads morning papers; all have last-minute advice for him on the Budget. The Budget Of course! 10 am: Takes morning papers into his study and starts planning Budget. 11 am: Starts writing speech, 12.30pm: Finishes speech and reads it back. Hmm. Not bad; but not enough jokes. Starts rewriting. 2 pm: Finishes speech and rushes off to the House. 3 pm: Starts speech with short survey of Britain today, then a brief history of the world. 4 pm: Still speaking, and hasn't mentioned a single measure. Radio and TV pundits going mad. 4.30 pm: Mentions a few measures and sits down. Shadow Chancellor gets up and condemns Chancellor's speech on all counts, especially for not containing enough jokes. Rest of evening: Budget repeated on all channels. Still no jokes. Nation goes to bed feeling unamused.



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LET COHABITATION BEGIN

The French election result confirms, once again, the skill of President François Mitterrand as a political tactician. It has long been apparent that he could not hope to get his Socialist government re-elected. He set out instead to preserve a political role for himself as president in the short term, while preserving the credentials of the Socialists as a governing party for the longer term. From both points of view the election result is better than he could have dared hope.

The incoming conservative coalition will have an overall majority only by dint of counting in a dozen or more "independent" members of the Assembly, who are loosely on the right without being paid up members of either of the conservative parties. This clearly leaves Mitterrand with the maximum room for manoeuvre and the minimum danger of being faced with an ultimatum requiring him to resign or to accept every whim of the new conservative ministers.

He may have hoped the conservatives would not get an overall majority at all. But such a result would have left him open to the charge of using proportional representation to make the extreme-right National Front the arbiter of France's destinies. As it is he gets most of the benefits of trammelled conservatism. The National Front's demagogic exploitation of popular insecurity and hostility to immigrants has regrettably won it the support of nearly ten per cent of the French electorate. It is surely better to involve it in parliamentary politics rather than give it an excuse to whip up anti-parliamentary violence.

If the vote for the conservative parties is good mainly for Mitterrand himself, the vote for the Socialists and their erstwhile allies on the left is good for France. The Socialist

Party has won 31.8 per cent of the votes in what can be reasonably considered a bad year. The Communists, who might have been thought well placed to pick up support from left-wing voters disillusioned with the Socialists' performance in office, were in fact pushed down below ten per cent (the party's worst figure since 1932). This reversal of roles is welcome. The French body politic has come of age.

Although the Socialists have not quite yet demonstrated that they can win an election without Communist support (in 1981 they benefited from the withdrawal of Communist candidates on the second ballot), they must now be considered well placed to do so at the next swing of the pendulum. The danger that, like the Labour Party after 1979, the Socialists would react to defeat by splitting and/or by swinging back to the left, has surely been averted. In spite of retreating, like the Wilson and Callaghan governments of the 1970s, from radical rhetoric to sober and painful realism under the pressure of experience in government, the Socialists can now go into opposition with their heads held high.

With their man still in the Elysee and their opponents forced to govern on a parliamentary tightrope, the more optimistic of them may even reckon themselves placed to reconquer power even within the next two years. Unless, however, the conservative leaders make a spectacular mess of things the electorate is more likely to confirm than to reverse its verdict if the new Assembly is dissolved early.

Any claim by the President that France is ungovernable would rebound against him, since he was the one who insisted on introducing proportional representation. And if the next election is, as it should normally be, a presidential one, the Socialist

candidate - whether Mitterrand again or another - would have either to promise to dissolve the Assembly as soon as he is elected, or to present the "cohabitation" of right-wing government and left-wing president as something positive and worth continuing. The former line would be difficult to sell to the country. The latter would hardly arouse the campaigning enthusiasm of the party.

In the short term Mitterrand and the political commentators can expect to enjoy themselves. But France may not be grateful for being governed by leaders who will have to proceed one step at a time, their glance darting furtively hither and thither forward to the rapidly approaching horizon of the presidential election due at latest in two years time, sideways at each other's ambitions, over their shoulder at M Raymond Barre watching sardonically from the side lines, and downwards at the banana skins which will no doubt be lobbed at their feet from the Elysee.

During this period France's allies and partners will have to show a certain patience. They will hope at least that M Chirac, as majority leader and in all probability as prime minister, does not feel obliged to assert himself by reverting to an intransigently nationalistic stance, particularly in the context of the European Community.

It is, happily, too late for him to reopen the issue of Spanish membership. But he could all too easily dig in his heels in discussions on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, or on measures needed to bring about a fully-integrated market for goods, services and capital by 1992. It may now be unrealistic to hope for any major movement in this direction during the second half of the year when the British take the presidency of the Community.

NERVOUSNESS IN THE AIR

It seems that a temporary peace has broken out between British Airways chairman, Lord King, and the government that is still denying him the firm date for privatisation that he seeks. At the weekend there were reports of bitter recriminations between Mrs Thatcher and the man who was once dubbed "her favourite busiessman". It is to be hoped that yesterday's "owcs" suggests that for British Airways politeness is now the better part of valour and that for the Prime Minister a change of mind may be forthcoming.

Last week's excuse for postponing the privatisation of British Airways has much in common with the one just over a year ago: for Laker, now read US regulatory officials. As in November, 1984, the government and its advisers cannot agree how much of a financial health warning to write into the sale prospectus. Over the Laker Airways billion dollar suit, subsequently settled for \$69-million, the question was the real extent of the flag carrier's potential liability. This time around, Mr Ridley and the Transport Department have decided that the regulatory uncertainties of the North Atlantic air routes pose a business threat which they cannot properly quantify for investors' purposes. They are therefore proposing to shelve BA's privatisation until all the issues are crystal clear for lawyers and investors alike.

This looks like a remarkable failure of political nerve. The difficulties thrown up by the current Anglo-American negotiations over North Atlantic air services are not to be lightly

dismissed. They concern the application of US anti-trust legislation, a notoriously complex area of international law; they revolve around a bilateral treaty, the so-called Bermuda Two agreement, which was signed in June, 1977, only after both sides had moved to the brink of a public row which might have caused the temporary suspension of UK and US transatlantic flights. The possibility exists in theory that the same could happen again this July, when crucial aspects of the treaty will expire unless they can be successfully renegotiated. But periodic crises of this kind are the very essence of the international airline industry and the present talks have been simmering in the background since as early as 1984. When this affair is settled, no doubt other vexed problems will arise to its place.

Until now, efforts to privatize BA have drawn upon a fierce political resolve that the complexity of the airline industry should not be allowed to stand in the way of the flag carrier's sale. Indeed, anxiety over the present talks can hardly compare, for example, with the prospect of US Federal prosecution of criminal charges, which loomed over BA for most of 1984. Mrs Thatcher on that occasion personally interceded with President Reagan to halt the Federal proceedings and have a US Grand Jury dismissed. Other dramatic interventions by the Prime Minister, by Lord King, the BA Chairman, and by Mr Ridley himself have underlined the same determination. To turn back now is to present an incongruous sequel to Mrs

Thatcher's weekend chastisement of the faint-hearted in Tory ranks. Mr Ridley's personal commitment to the privatization policy is not in doubt and he has done much to bring BA to the point where a sale is now possible. But he has presented this latest postponement as a reluctant acknowledgement of commercial realities - and on this basis, the airline's offer to explore what is a radically alternative approach to the private sector surely deserves a fair hearing.

It is now claimed that there was never any question of a management buy-out. But placing a majority of the shares with staff and with professional international investors, if it could be achieved, might satisfy the government's political and financial objectives whilst avoiding the risks of a clash with the Bermuda Two talks. Support from the City over the next few weeks would not amount to a repudiation of Mr Ridley's judgement about the risks of a July sale: BA's buy-out plan would be, after all, a different commercial proposition altogether. The purposes of privatisation are many and various - to widen share-ownership, to improve management efficiency, to reduce the reach of the public sector, to raise revenue for the Exchequer, and to ensure that an enterprise, once removed from public ownership, should not easily revert to its former state.

Not all of these objectives can be fully achieved in every case. But the general argument for sending BA to market is as powerful as ever.

White Paper. The Government, while rightly seeking to give succour to innocent victims of crime, steadfastly refuses to accept any obligation to the equally innocent victims of the criminal justice system.

Every year there are remanded in custody some 2,000 people who will be acquitted of the charges against them, often after many months in appalling prison conditions and with consequences for them which can only be imagined. None of them will receive a penny compensation.

When the issue is raised, one is told formally of the various steps being taken to reduce waiting times - though waiting times must be halved before they return to the levels of the early 1970s. Less formally, murmurs are heard about the known naivete of many jurors.

In fact, not a few acquittals are on the direction of the judge or on the prosecution's decision to offer no evidence. Sometimes the public interest will and must override the right to liberty of the individual, and occasionally errors will be made. When they are, we, as the beneficiaries of those errors, should be ungrudging in our willingness to pay generous compensation to their victims.

The forthcoming Criminal Justice Bill should institute a compensation board for this purpose. Until we make such a provision we shall be continuing to perpetrate an injustice for which future generations will look back on us with incredulity and contempt.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HARRIS,
University of Leicester,
School of Social Work,
107 Princess Road East, Leicester.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Right to work and public purse

From Mr Hugh Upton

Sir, Roger Scruton should not suppose (March 11) that, in his terms, augmenting the store of rights decreases the fund of duties. The claim rights that concern him are characterized precisely by their relation to duties.

If I were to promise him something, he would thus acquire a right and I would be bound by a duty. The existence of the right actually ensures that a duty exists also. The first is vacuous without the second.

This happy marriage does not break up in more controversial cases. If people have a right to work in the sense of a right to have work provided, then indeed someone will have a duty to provide it. There is therefore no need to worry about running short

of duties simply because rights multiply.

Dr Scruton's further worry concerns where the duties fall: "No duties are imposed on the man whose 'right to work' is to be justified on the public purse". This is just a confusion. Everybody will have this right to work, and while employed, will have a duty to finance the right through taxation.

We can argue whether this is morally required or morally unacceptable, but we should not suppose that those who have the right and those who contribute to the public purse are entirely different groups. Yours faithfully,
HUGH UPTON,
University College London,
Department of Philosophy,
Gower Street, WC1,
March 11.

Audit's role on rebel councils

From the Controller of the Audit Commission for Local Authorities in England and Wales

Sir, Your leader ("Councilors and the law", March 6) in the aftermath of the High Court's decisions on the appeals by councilors in Liverpool and Lambeth betrayed some confusion about the nature of the relationship between government, the Audit Commission and the district auditors that the commission appoints. In view of public interest in these cases, I am writing to clarify the situation.

The Local Government Finance Act of 1982 requires auditors of local authorities to satisfy themselves that, in addition to acting lawfully, councils are making proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in their use of resources. The Act places these duties on auditors personally; and it requires auditors to carry out their duties independently.

The commission has no more influence over their decisions than the Lord Chancellor's department would have over the decisions of a judge in a particular case, or a police committee over the actions of a police officer. And it would be quite improper for pressure to be brought on the auditor from any quarter, including the commission.

It will therefore be the individual auditors - and not the commission - who will have to decide whether to seek, on behalf of the local communities, to recover any losses that were incurred in other authorities besides Lambeth and Liverpool as a result of delays in making rates last year.

In light of the recent judgment, they will need to decide whether the losses were incurred as a result of "wilful misconduct" - i.e., as a result of a deliberate failure by councilors to carry out their legal duty.

If the auditors determine that losses were indeed incurred as a result of wilful misconduct, the law as it now stands requires that they seek to recover the money lost from the councilors who were responsible. Auditors will have no discretion in the matter. If, however, the auditors (and ultimately the courts) determine that the council's losses were not caused by wilful misconduct the question of recovery would not arise.

In short, as the law requires, these difficult questions will be decided by auditors free of any outside interference - and without regard to the views of ministers, the Audit Commission or its officers on the issues involved. Yours faithfully,
JOHN M.M. BANHAM,
The Audit Commission for Local Authorities in England and Wales,
1 Vincent Square, SW1.

Cost of gardening

From Mr W. E. Roscher

Sir, Since many pensioners take to some form of gardening for pleasure or produce, here are some figures from my own records which might be of interest. I have listed only one plant - the tomato, which is grown almost everywhere - though other seeds show comparable rises too tedious to enumerate; the brands of seed and rake were identical.

	1975	1986	Increase
Packet of tomato seed	28p	£1.17	317.8%
Garden rake	£2.75	£24	794%
	1972	1986	

Greenhouse paraffin heater	£14	£42	200%
12ft x 8ft aluminium greenhouse	£75	£475	533%

I "retired" in 1975, having also paid the Class IV contribution, for which I get nothing. My DHSS pension, which became payable on April 9, 1981, was £26.33 a week. It is now £37.16 a week - an increase of 41.17 per cent. Need one say more?

Yours sincerely,
W. E. ROSCHER,
Shagbrook,
Reigate Heath, Surrey.

Cover-up

From Mr Martin Best

Sir, The answer is simple: buy the book, remove the jacket and put it in a safe place reserved for such a purpose, read the book and then replace the jacket. When observed as a normal discipline by the average reading family, the investment potential is, well, at least potential. Yours etc.
MARTIN BEST,
Clenton Manor,
Winterborne Clenton,
Blandford Forum, Dorset.

From Mrs S. Loudon

Sir, I remove the dust jacket and write the name of the person borrowing the book inside, or better still, get them to sign their name, absolute proof of their borrowing the book. Yours faithfully,
SUE LOUDON,
13 Orchard Toll,
Raveinston, Edburgh.

From Mrs J. M. Houghton

Sir, Perhaps Dr Hickman would do well to take the advice of the Earl of Chesterfield: "Due attention to the inside of books, and due contempt for the outside, is the proper relation between a man of sense and his books". Yours faithfully,
J. M. HOUGHTON,
21a Marsh Street,
Warminster, Wiltshire.

Cash limits on 'social fund'

From the Director of Social Services, Newcastle upon Tyne

Sir, At a time when Mr Fowler's review of the social security provisions is being debated through various stages in the House of Commons, I would like to make comments on one of its most worrying features.

Mr Fowler quite properly sets out to simplify the range of complicated benefits which cause such anxiety and misunderstanding to many claimants, and he also tries to direct the funds available to the people who need them most. One of the mechanisms by which he proposes to do this is the introduction of a "social fund", to be administered by local offices.

It is understood that the fund will be cash-limited, and in many circumstances loans will be made to the recipients rather than grants. There is no provision for people who fail to receive help, or who do not receive appropriate help, to appeal to any independent group for reconsideration.

The whole concept of such a fund undermines established principles accepted since the time of William Beveridge. Granting local discretion could lead to substan-

tial variations in the way in which the needs of applicants would be determined, and it is contrary to principles of fairness that claimants will not be able to appeal against decisions. People who feel that they have not been properly understood will have no recourse to normal justice.

Even more worrying is the proposal that much of this aid will be supplied by way of loans. The social security system is designed to help people in the lowest incomes in our society through desperate short-term or long-term crises. If loans are made in these circumstances, individuals and families will be faced with repayments over fixed periods of time, thus again reducing their income level.

Surely it cannot be the intention behind this review that the poorest people in our society will be made yet poorer. Yours faithfully,
BRIAN ROY-CROFT,
Director of Social Services, City of Newcastle upon Tyne,
Civic Centre,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
March 7.

Damage to tourism

From the Director General of the British Tourist Authority

Sir, Mr Conal Gregory, MP, referring to American tourism in Britain (March 10), writes: "The British Tourist Authority needs to immediately promote Britain as a safe and attractive venue to overseas visitors".

I can assure Mr Gregory - and your readers - that BTA, in co-operation with British and American trade colleagues, has never ceased its vigorous and successful marketing campaign in the US. This has included, in recent months, widespread public relations activities emphasising all the positive aspects of visiting Britain, including welcome and safety.

For example, last weekend, in collaboration with British Airways, British Caledonian, Transoceanic, American Express and other sponsors, BTA organised a visit to London by 30 leading American travel agents. While here, this important group met British hoteliers and

tour operators, visited leading stores, restaurants and theatres, saw the new Terminal 4 facilities at Heathrow and toured the Oxfordshire countryside.

In other words, they reacquainted themselves with the attractions that brought the record number of over three million American visitors to Britain last year, spending over £1,600 million. All the Americans were impressed with their visit.

In America, too, we have been actively involved for many months in reassurance. Through the European Travel Commission we have participated in over 100 radio and television interviews throughout the United States. Our 18-city "roadshow", which is currently travelling coast to coast, will talk to thousands of travel agents and will emphasise strongly Britain's welcome and appeal. Yours faithfully,
L. J. LICKORISH,
Director General,
British Tourist Authority,
24 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1,
March 11.

Off-course betting

From the Chairman of the National Council on Gambling

Sir, Marcel Berlins' article (March 7) on the new betting shop summaries the situation very well. However, there is an important factual error.

Although it was originally so, the levy on betting is not now based on bookmakers' profits, as Mr Berlins states, but on turnover - i.e., the amount of money staked. As the Royal Commission on Gambling (1978) pointed out, since 1974 the levy has become "payment by punters charged upon stakes and collected by bookmakers in the form of an additional payment with the stake money or a deduction from winnings".

This is more than a semantic point. As with the levy, so in relation to the additional facilities that will now be available in betting shops, the bookmaker is not providing them out of his own pocket. One way or another, the punter will continue to pay for them. It is vital that there should be adequate safeguards to ensure that the punter is not exploited and incited to gamble excessively. Yours faithfully,
E. MORAN, Chairman,
The National Council on Gambling,
26 Bedford Square, WC1,
March 7.

Satanic drills

From Mr M. C. Whear

Sir, I don't know why you published Mr John Bratby's emotional letter today (March 12). He must be pulling our legs.

A beauty spot is cosmetic. It won't generate jobs, keep old people warm, pay for the health service or educate our children. Oil does all this. And it supports the technology that enabled Mr Bratby's letter to be delivered and published.

These, if anything, are what people fought for - the future not the past. Yours faithfully,
M. C. WHEAR,
The Old Chapel,
The Green,
Barrington,
Cambridge,
March 12.

That fishing party

From Mrs Jane Parsons

Sir, As just a plain and simple television viewer, I would like to reassure Mr Guy Cheyne (March 11) that at least two people, my husband and myself, assumed that he and his three friends had been set up by the makers of the programme. *The Fishing Party*.

What made the film so immensely enjoyable, so deliciously infuriating, was the sure knowledge that numerous lesser mortals, who in days gone by would have touched their forelocks to the members of the party, would have spotted the intentions of the production team well before the cameras started to roll.

As if the fun of the programme was not enough, Mr Cheyne added even more enjoyment to our daily lives by his vain attempt to blame the Press.

If I was in his shoes, I would be tempted to adopt a stray moggy, help old ladies across the road and keep my head down. To appear daft in front of millions is excusable once in a lifetime. To intentionally go for a second... Yours faithfully,
JANE PARSONS,
Southfields,
Long Crendon Road,
Thame,
Oxfordshire,
March 11.

Paying for gas

From Mr T. H. Cloud

Sir, Mr Jones (March 6) was lucky. In addition our gas board insisted the contract for replacing oil burner with gas should be through them; then unjustifiably increased my credit card agreement and charged my Access account before the equipment was even ordered.

Some two months later the contractor was paid before the work was completed or checked. Then, to cap it all, I am now billed with a standing charge from a date when no gas equipment was in the house! Yours sincerely,
T. H. CLOUD,
Nimbus,
53 Kenwood Drive,
Walton-on-Thames,
Surrey,
March 7.

ON THIS DAY

MARCH 18 1861

It is surprising that this long, informative letter did not elicit further correspondence on the subject. The rather flippant headline suggests that *The Times* was not wholly in sympathy with the views of J.O. Dr Keate was the redoubtable headmaster of Eton, who in June, 1832, flogged more than 80 boys for an attempted rebellion.

STRONG MEAT FOR BABES

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, I received a few days ago from a neighbouring tradesman a parcel wrapped in some leavened Parliamentary paper. I was so much struck by the contents that I procured the entire document, and I hope you will allow me to call the attention of the Legislature to the painful facts which it discloses.

The paper to which I allude was moved for last session by Mr. Stanley, and is "a return of the amount of corporal punishment which has during the last three years been inflicted in the various gaols and Houses of Correction in the United Kingdom by order of the Visiting Justices, specifying the offence for which such punishment has been given, the number of lashes, and how delivered; if in public or private, and the age of the persons punished."

It would seem from the return which is before me that we deal very capriciously with our civil culprits, and that the amount and nature of punishment awarded for the same crime varies altogether with the geographical position of the place where it is committed. In Cumberland, in Huntingdonshire, in Monmouthshire, in Rutlandshire, in Anglesey, in Brecon, in Carmarthenshire, in Carmarthen-shire, in Glamorganshire, in Flintshire, in Gwyneddshire, in Merionethshire, in Montgomeryshire, in Pembrokeshire, and in Radnorshire they do not flog criminals at all in Cambridgeshire and in Herefordshire they have only flogged one in each county during the last three years. In Cheshire, in Devonshire, and in Middlesex they flog them a good deal; in Northumberland and in Staffordshire they flog them a good deal more; and in Lancashire they flog them enormously.

The amount of lashes awarded to crimes of the same nature seems to vary as much as the number of individual floggings. Petty larceny, a crime which in Cheshire secures for a mere child 72 lashes with a cat-administered in two doses in the other counties scarcely entitles in the case of a strong man of 28 to the reception of 18 cuts with a birch.

But what I most especially wish to call the attention of the Legislature to is the shocking amount of punishment which the Visiting Justices and the Assizes and Sessions award to the young children of the poor. The children of the rich, as I have said, never received more than 12 or 16 cuts in Dr Keate's penitential days. Here is what he administered in 1857-8 to the children of the poor. Sixty-seven criminals of 12 years of age, 41 of 11, 34 of 10, 12 of nine, three of eight, and one of seven, appear in the lists before as having been thus punished - some with the birch, and others - I shudder while I write - with the "cat." In Chester a girl of eight is stated to have received 24 lashes for "repeated misconduct;" a child of nine, to have received the same for "house-breaking;" and at Bodmin a boy of 12 got two separate floggings of 36 lashes each for "horse-stealing. At Hertford a boy of 10 received 36 lashes for stealing a piece of beef, while a man of 28 only received the same punishment for stealing 29 fowls. Two children, of nine years old, received 15 lashes each at Faversham - one for stealing a cocoon, value 3d.; the other for stealing a half-pound weight, value 7d.; while a man of 36, at Maidstone, received but 18 for running away and deserting his wife and child.

At Salford, in Lancashire, a boy of 12 received 48 lashes for "most artfully and wantonly destroying the books in his cell;" a boy of 11 got 36 lashes for shouting in his cell; and a boy of ten 48 lashes for putting the cotton given to him to pick into his cell pot. The well fed children of the rich, when they come to be striped for punishment, are at eight, nine, or ten years of age but frail, delicate-skinned, little creatures, very ill-fitted to bear even a dozen cuts of the cane or the birch; the underfed children of the poor are firmer and punier still, and I appeal to every member of the House of Commons who has young children under ten to put a stop to these inhuman and unnecessary cruelties. If two-thirds of the counties of England, and if all Wales, can manage their young offenders without the birch and the "cat," why should the other third be permitted thus to disgrace itself? I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
J.O.

Meaningful terms

From Mrs Ruth Parsons

Sir, My mother, who grew up in Burford, Oxfordshire, was delighted with a notice which appeared there in a cottage window about 1897: Gentlemen's Habilliments Renovated, Depurated, Manipulated and Transmogrified. By C. Jordan, Cosmopolite. Also, Elongated and Abbreviated. Yours faithfully,
RUTH PARSONS,
Radford Lodge,
Radford,
Oxford,
March 8.

سكوا من الأصل

Handwritten note: *Handwritten text in a box at the top right of the page.*

Princess
reward
prison
service

A new departure for Heathrow.

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(Our new Terminal opens on April 12, 1986.)

From next month, there'll be a fast new way to leave the country. Heathrow's new Terminal 4.

All British Airways flights to Paris and Amsterdam and all their Intercontinental services including Concorde, will take off from there. As will all KLM, NLM and Air Malta flights.

But if you're using our new Terminal, there's something you ought to know.

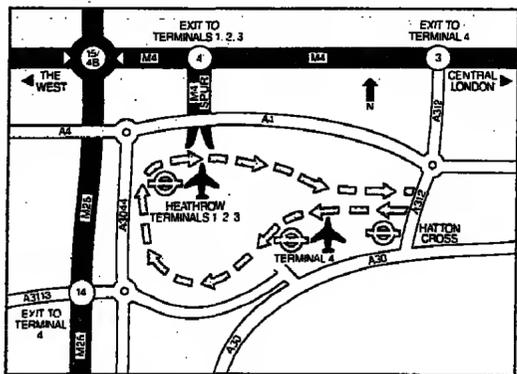
It can't be reached the same way as Terminals 1, 2 and 3.

So it's more important than ever to know which Terminal to report to.

And if it's Terminal 4, how to get there.

By car, that means following the special road signs on the motorways. By bus, it means getting off at the Terminal 4 stop.

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Terminal 4 cost £200 million to build. (Not a penny of it, by the way, from the pockets of tax payers.)

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HEATHROW - GATWICK - STANSTED - GLASGOW - EDINBURGH - PRESTWICK - ABERDEEN

A match made in the charmed circle

By Alan Hamilton

Prince Andrew looks like continuing a royal tradition, begun by Princess Margaret in 1960, of becoming engaged to a commoner. But some commoners are less common than others; Miss Sarah Ferguson can claim a family connection, although a tenuous one, with the Queen, and her upbringing has been well within those charmed concentric circles which surround the royal family and which smell of saddle soap and old money.

Miss Ferguson's paternal grandmother was a Montagu-Douglas-Scott, from the family of the Duke of Buccleuch, Scotland's largest private landowner whose several homes include the majestic border castles of Drumlanrig in Dumfriesshire and Floors at Kelso; the latter sheltered Andrew and Sarah at times during their courtship and desperate quest for privacy.

Another daughter of the family, Alice Christobel, married Henry of Gloucester, brother of King George V, in 1935, providing Sarah's immediate royal connection. She is still alive and active as Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester.

Sarah's grandmother, now Lady Elmhorst and aged 74, lives in a cottage close to the family's Hampshire home. After the death of her first husband, Col. Andrew Ferguson, she married Air Marshal Sir Thomas Elmhorst, who died in 1966. Lady Elmhorst is a first cousin of Princess Alice.

Bonds cemented through polo

Miss Ferguson's introduction into the upper strata of aristocracy was provided by her father, Major Ronald Ferguson, who during his career in the Life Guards commanded the Sovereign's Escort of the Household Cavalry, a post which took him into contact and friendship with the Queen and her family.

The bonds were cemented by Major Ferguson's consuming passion for polo, through which he formed a close friendship with Prince Philip, and he is now the Prince of Wales's polo manager. If he is not at home, in the village of Dummer, outside Basingstoke, the Major can almost certainly be found at the Guards' Polo Club at Windsor.

polo connection proved a double-edged sword. Fourteen years ago he and Sarah's mother, Susan, separated; she has since married Hector Barrantes, a wealthy Argentine polo player.

He enlisted in General Galtieri's army during the Falklands war, but apparently took no active part. The couple now live at Treague Langhna, near Buenos Aires, and receive occasional visits from Sarah.

Major Ferguson has since remarried and has three children, including a daughter aged five months, by his second wife, also named Susan.

Born in a nursing home at 27 Welbeck Street, London, on October 15, 1959, Sarah spent her early years at her parents' home at Lowwood, Sunninghill, near Ascot, and enjoyed an academically undistinguished career at two local boarding schools, Daughters and Hurst Lodge.

Her father's position and her proximity to Windsor meant that she and her future husband played together as infants in the castle.

After school she followed the career of a Sloane Ranger, equipped with the regulation Volkswagen Golf GTI car: a spell at St James's secretarial college in South Kensington, followed by jobs in a flat-letting agency, a Covent Garden art gallery, a sports public relations agency, and now at a graphic arts company in the West End.

She is said to enjoy horses, in which the Prince shows a moderate interest, to be an accomplished skier, which the Prince is not, and to have no current interest in photography. They are on common ground in that neither has played, nor is ever likely to play, polo.

The fires of royal romantic speculation, ever ready to be stirred by the merest breeze of gossip, were fanned to a roar last June when Miss Ferguson appeared with Prince Andrew in the royal box at Ascot.

She had been invited to Ascot week, when the Sovereign holds informal open house to many personal friends.

Since then Miss Ferguson has suffered, as Diana Spencer suffered, from a pack of photographers tailing her wherever she goes. She is, however, an expert driver, and

has proved adept at escape in her fast blue BMW car.

Under the Royal Marriages Act, members of the Queen's family in line of succession to the throne have to obtain her permission to marry. But the Queen harbours no equal, though less formal, concern that previous partners of either party should not cash in on the liaison and hawk "kiss and tell" revelations around Fleet Street or to foreign magazines.

There appears to be satisfaction that Sarah Ferguson presents no such danger. Her previous boyfriends are not thought to be the type who would do such a thing. It is worthy of note, however, that Prince Andrew's most celebrated former partner, Miss Koo Stark, who was thought by his father to be a most unsuitable match, has kept a loyal and absolute silence.

Second sons have become king

Although it is unlikely, the Queen and her advisers must bear in mind the possibility of Prince Andrew becoming king. He lies fourth in succession, with the Prince of Wales and the young Princes William and Henry ahead of him.

Yet twice in the history of the House of Windsor has the second son of the monarch succeeded: King George V ascended the throne after his elder brother, died young, and King George VI ascended the throne after the abdication of his elder brother Edward VIII.

Prince Andrew will continue his full-time career as a naval officer, and in the immediate future, his tour of duty on HMS Brazen complete, he can look forward to a summer ashore, attending a Lieutenant's course at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, just as his father did at the time of his own marriage in 1947.

Tradition suggests that the couple will be created Duke and Duchess of York, that dukedom being reserved for the monarch's second son. The Queen was born Elizabeth of York, her father having held the title until propelled unwillingly to the throne by the abdication.

Tradition also suggests that their eventual home will be Clarence House, at present occupied by the Queen Mother.



Miss Ferguson on her way to work yesterday (Photograph: Julian Herbert)

Letter from Tehran ABC of death in Iran's schools

In the old days, primary-school children would learn their grammar in a textbook which taught them to recite: *Baba ab dad, maman nan dad - Daddy gave us water, Mummy gave us bread.* A new edition of the volume has been published in Tehran in which the phrases have been changed: *Baba khon dad it says now. Maman jan dad - Daddy gave his blood, Mummy gave her life.*

In the West, it would be called brain-washing. Even in the early 1980s, the school-children of the revolution were urged to be junior informers.

Teachers would sometimes appear in class and hold up a bottle of brown liquid with a familiar label. The ambitious but less thoughtful children who held up their hands to identify the whisky would be asked if they had seen a bottle at home. Things are less severe now that middle-class political opposition has been liquidated.

Chador at school for five-year-old

In a north Tehran house, a woman slowly turns the pages of a family photograph album. She points to a snapshot of a handsome young man in a brown shirt. "He was in the opposition and they arrested him. They killed him," she says simply.

The young man in the picture seems to come alive when she speaks, leaning forward, towards the camera, one arm draped round his sister's shoulder, the other in a gentle "pray" around his mother. "His mother never got over it," says the woman.

"Her young daughter is watching in silence. She is perhaps five years old, a pert, cheerful little girl with fluffy brown hair and a pixie smile. "She wears a chador to school," her mother says.

"Fereshteh, let's see what you look like when you go to school." Fereshteh runs into her bedroom and emerges in a kind of mourning, head to

toe in black cloth, her hair invisible beneath the material, her round face smiling incongruously from the darkness. Then she becomes serious and walks slowly back to the bedroom to become a child again.

There is a sort of acceptance, seven years after the revolution, even among those who cannot comprehend what has come to pass. On a windy railway platform, a civil engineer pauses between words as he tries to grasp the distance that separates him from his own countrymen. "I do not understand these people who say they want to die. I never knew people like this... What can you say to these people?"

"These people" make no secret of their desires. Stogging through the mud down to the Kenar river where the pontoon bridge slopes in the water behind the Iranian gun line, they will treat you to lectures on martyrdom, the promise of paradise, on the spiritual as well as moral advantages over Iran's enemies.

They really believe, in the sense that Europe's most fanatical religious reformers believed in the sixteenth century. They point to the corpse of an Iraqi soldier cut clean in half by rocket fire, the top of his body piled neatly on top of his legs. His distended hand is wearing a wedding ring. "This is what we will do to Saddam," one of them says.

There is nothing exclusive about what he says. "I do not like this wretched government," a Tehran university lecturer tells you.

"But I support this war against Saddam. He invaded my country. We will make him pay for that. The Islamic argument says that, including the West in Iran's list of wartime enemies. "You know, we would not have America if so many of us had not been killed at the time of the revolution," he says. "America controlled the Shah. Now it controls Saddam Hussein."

Robert Fisk

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Queen holds an Investiture at Buckingham Palace, 11.45; and then opens Osborne Court, Wigan Rd, Atherton, Greater Manchester, 1.25; and later on the new Stuart Edgar Development on the South Lancashire Industrial Estate, Greater Manchester, 2.30

Fourways Assessment Centre

Tyldesley, Greater Manchester, 11.45; and then opens Osborne Court, Wigan Rd, Atherton, Greater Manchester, 1.25; and later on the new Stuart Edgar Development on the South Lancashire Industrial Estate, Greater Manchester, 2.30

architectural enamels by Stefan Knapp

Grabowski Gallery, 284 Soane Ave, SW3; Mon to Sat 11 to 9 (ends November 30).

Roads

London and South-east A10 Great Cambridge Road, Enfield; roadworks at Turnford roundabout, M28 Kent; roadworks at closed between the A26 (junction 7) and the A20 (junction 8), contrailway system operating on Londonbound carriageway, A34 Hampshire, south of Newbury, resurfacing work on both carriageways, long delays expected.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending March 8:
BBC 1
1 Eastenders (Tue/Sun) 23.75m
2 Eastenders (Thu/Sat) 22.40m
3 Dallas 14m
4 Dear John 13.05m
5 That's Life 12.95m
6 Hogan 10.12m
7 Hancock's Half Hour 11.95m
8 News and Weather (Sat 21.10)
9 Holiday '86 11.80m
10 Miss Marple: The Body in the Library, 11.50m

Weather forecast

A trough of low pressure over western districts will move slowly east.
6am to midnight
London, SE, E England: Mostly cloudy, patches of fog clearing; mainly dry at first, rain later with S light or moderate, max temp: 8C (46F)
Can S, Can N, NE England, Midlands, Channel Islands: Cloudy, rain soon spreading from west, clearer mainly dry, with S moderate or fresh veering NW later, max temp: 10C (50F)
SW, NW England, Wales, Lake District: Rain during morning, becoming clearer and mainly dry, with S fresh or strong veering NW moderate or fresh; max temp: 10C (50F)
North Sea, Scotland, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, SW, NE Scotland, Dundee, Orkney Islands, Hebrides: Cloudy rain spreading from W, clearing and mainly dry later, with S fresh or strong veering W moderate; max temp: 9C (48F)
Ireland, Shetland: Cloudy rain at times clearing with showers later, with S strong showers, some rain in all parts, but also drier and brighter intervals, near normal temperatures.



The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,996

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating the starting positions of words. The grid is 15 squares wide and 15 squares high.

ACROSS

- 1 Feller has furniture stored away by house-builder (10).
- 9 Hard to prohibit return of Biblical landowner, no salesman (6).
- 10 Exemplary soldier has leg broken by Varisty man in fun (8).
- 11 Tactful Chopin miscellany with introductory note - top class (8).
- 12 Capital invested in Czechoslovakia? (4).
- 13 Joined together but utterly distinct (10).
- 15 Too much trouble for ref in action (7).
- 17 Prospero's brother named after Venetian merchant? (7).
- 20 Treacherous rock in lake (10).
- 21 Sent out to a den of thieves, sacrifices (4).
- 22 Sacrifice of little distance with a of trouble and start to experiment (8).
- 25 Boy gets money, I hear, by writing verse (8).
- 26 Creed with subtle points (6).
- 27 Pope on close terms with eastern orange girl (10).

Solution to Puzzle No 16,995

A grid showing the solution to the previous crossword puzzle, with words filled in.

Talks and lectures

VDU Based Ship Control and Navigation System by K Miller: UWT, Colum Drive, Cardiff.
Late-Medieval Scottish Kingship and its Legacy in Early-Modern Britain, University College of London, Gower St, WC1, 5.30.
French and English 13th Century manuscripts by Penelope Wallis: The British Museum, Great Russell St, WC2, 1.30.
Arms and Armour as Art by A Vesey Norman: Highbury Library and Scientific Institution, 11 South Gower, N6, 8.15.

General

The Weasel Family: lecture and film: Natural History Museum, SW7, 3pm.
1986 Camden Festival: information: 01 388 1394.
Jonathan Swift: No Country for Old Men (film): The British Library, Great Russell Street, WC2, 11.

Anniversaries

Births: Grover Cleveland, 22nd (1885-89) and 24th (1893-97) President of the USA; Caldwell, New Jersey, 1837; Stephen Mallarmé, poet, Paris, 1842; Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov (old style Mr 6), Tikhvin, Russia, 1844; Rudolf Diesel, inventor of the diesel internal combustion engine, 1858; Neville Chamberlain, Prime Minister, 1937-40; Birmingham, 1869; Wilfred Owen, poet, Oswestry, Shropshire, 1893.
Deaths: Robert Walpole, 1st Earl of Orford, statesman, London 1745; Laurence Sterne, author of *Tristram Shandy*, London, 1768; Farouk I, King of Egypt, 1936-52; Rome, 1965; Edward the Martyr, King of the English (975-78), was murdered at Corfe, Dorset, 978.

The pound

	Bank	Sale
Australia \$	2.25	2.25
Canada \$	1.57	1.57
Denmark kr	12.88	12.88
France F	7.20	7.20
Germany DM	10.49	10.49
Hong Kong \$	3.41	3.41
Indonesia Rp	200.00	200.00
Japan Yen	117.00	117.00
Norway Nkr	200.00	200.00
Portugal Esc	200.00	200.00
Spain Ptas	166.67	166.67
Sweden Kr	10.36	10.36
Switzerland Fr	1.55	1.55
USA \$	1.63	1.63
Yugoslavia Din	600.00	600.00

Parliament today

Lords (2.30): Local Government Bill, third reading.
Commons (2.30): Budget statement; opposed private business; Housing Support Grant (Scotland) Variation (No 2) Order; motion on second report of Privileges Committee.

Snow Reports

	Depth (cm)	U	P	W	Weather	Temp (C)	
ANDORRA	100	200	good	varied	good	fine	10
AUSTRIA	30	95	fair	spring	worm	sun	7
FRANCE	95	285	good	varied	fair	cloud	2
Spain	120	180	good	varied	fair	fine	2
Switzerland	175	280	good	varied	good	fine	2
Val Thorens	110	170	good	heavy	fair	fine	0
SWITZERLAND	90	160	good	heavy	fair	fine	9
Switzerland	10	90	good	spring	fair	fine	10
Saas-Fee	120	240	good	powder	good	sun	-6
Verbier	40	210	good	varied	good	fine	6
Zermatt	80	195	good	varied	fair	fine	5

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper, and art to artificial.

Lighting-up time

London 6.40 pm to 5.57 am
Bristol 6.48 pm to 5.48 am
Cardiff 6.52 pm to 5.45 am
Manchester 6.48 pm to 5.45 am
Penzance 7.01 pm to 5.58 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, 0; F, 32; 1, 50; 2, 59; 3, 68; 4, 77; 5, 86; 6, 95; 7, 104; 8, 113; 9, 122; 10, 131; 11, 140; 12, 149; 13, 158; 14, 167; 15, 176; 16, 185; 17, 194; 18, 203; 19, 212; 20, 221; 21, 230; 22, 239; 23, 248; 24, 257; 25, 266; 26, 275; 27, 284; 28, 293; 29, 302; 30, 311; 31, 320; 1, 329; 2, 338; 3, 347; 4, 356; 5, 365; 6, 374; 7, 383; 8, 392; 9, 401; 10, 410; 11, 419; 12, 428; 13, 437; 14, 446; 15, 455; 16, 464; 17, 473; 18, 482; 19, 491; 20, 500; 21, 509; 22, 518; 23, 527; 24, 536; 25, 545; 26, 554; 27, 563; 28, 572; 29, 581; 30, 590; 31, 599; 1, 608; 2, 617; 3, 626; 4, 635; 5, 644; 6, 653; 7, 662; 8, 671; 9, 680; 10, 689; 11, 698; 12, 707; 13, 716; 14, 725; 15, 734; 16, 743; 17, 752; 18, 761; 19, 770; 20, 779; 21, 788; 22, 797; 23, 806; 24, 815; 25, 824; 26, 833; 27, 842; 28, 851; 29, 860; 30, 869; 31, 878; 1, 887; 2, 896; 3, 905; 4, 914; 5, 923; 6, 932; 7, 941; 8, 950; 9, 959; 10, 968; 11, 977; 12, 986; 13, 995; 14, 1004; 15, 1013; 16, 1022; 17, 1031; 18, 1040; 19, 1049; 20, 1058; 21, 1067; 22, 1076; 23, 1085; 24, 1094; 25, 1103; 26, 1112; 27, 1121; 28, 1130; 29, 1139; 30, 1148; 31, 1157; 1, 1166; 2, 1175; 3, 1184; 4, 1193; 5, 1202; 6, 1211; 7, 1220; 8, 1229; 9, 1238; 10, 1247; 11, 1256; 12, 1265; 13, 1274; 14, 1283; 15, 1292; 16, 1301; 17, 1310; 18, 1319; 19, 1328; 20, 1337; 21, 1346; 22, 1355; 23, 1364; 24, 1373; 25, 1382; 26, 1391; 27, 1400; 28, 1409; 29, 1418; 30, 1427; 31, 1436; 1, 1445; 2, 1454; 3, 1463; 4, 1472; 5, 1481; 6, 1490; 7, 1499; 8, 1508; 9, 1517; 10, 1526; 11, 1535; 12, 1544; 13, 1553; 14, 1562; 15, 1571; 16, 1580; 17, 1589; 18, 1598; 19, 1607; 20, 1616; 21, 1625; 22, 1634; 23, 1643; 24, 1652; 25, 1661; 26, 1670; 27, 1679; 28, 1688; 29, 1697; 30, 1706; 31, 1715; 1, 1724; 2, 1733; 3, 1742; 4, 1751; 5, 1760; 6, 1769; 7, 1778; 8, 1787; 9, 1796; 10, 1805; 11, 1814; 12, 1823; 13, 1832; 14, 1841; 15, 1850; 16, 1859; 17, 1868; 18, 1877; 19, 1886; 20, 1895; 21, 1904; 22, 1913; 23, 1922; 24, 1931; 25, 1940; 26, 1949; 27, 1958; 28, 1967; 29, 1976; 30, 1985; 31, 1994; 1, 2003; 2, 2012; 3, 2021; 4, 2030; 5, 2039; 6, 2048; 7, 2057; 8, 2066; 9, 2075; 10, 2084; 11, 2093; 12, 2102; 13, 2111; 14, 2120; 15, 2129; 16, 2138; 17, 2147; 18, 2156; 19, 2165; 20, 2174; 21, 2183; 22, 2192; 23, 2201; 24, 2210; 25, 2219; 26, 2228; 27, 2237; 28, 2246; 29, 2255; 30, 2264; 31, 2273; 1, 2282; 2, 2291; 3, 2300; 4, 2309; 5, 2318; 6, 2327; 7, 2336; 8, 2345; 9, 2354; 10, 2363; 11, 2372; 12, 2381; 13, 2390; 14, 2399; 15, 2408; 16, 2417; 17, 2426; 18, 2435; 19, 2444; 20, 2453; 21, 2462; 22, 2471; 23, 2480; 24, 2489; 25, 2498; 26, 2507; 27, 2516; 28, 2525; 29, 2534; 30, 2543; 31, 2552; 1, 2561; 2, 2570; 3, 2579; 4, 2588; 5, 2597; 6, 2606; 7, 2615; 8, 2624; 9, 2633; 10, 2642; 11, 2651; 12, 2660; 13, 2669; 14, 2678; 15, 2687; 16, 2696; 17, 2705; 18, 2714; 19, 2723; 20, 2732; 21, 2741; 22, 2750; 23, 2759; 24, 2768; 25, 2777; 26, 2786; 27, 2795; 28, 2804; 29, 2813; 30, 2822; 31, 2831; 1, 2840; 2, 2849; 3, 2858; 4, 2867; 5, 2876; 6, 2885; 7, 2894; 8, 2903; 9, 2912; 10, 2921; 11, 2930; 12, 2939; 13, 2948; 14, 2957; 15, 2966; 16, 2975; 17, 2984; 18, 2993; 19, 3002; 20, 3011; 21, 3020; 22, 3029; 23, 3038; 24, 3047; 25, 3056; 26, 3065; 27, 3074; 28, 3083; 29, 3092; 30, 3101; 31, 3110; 1, 3119; 2, 3128; 3, 3137; 4, 3146; 5, 3155; 6, 3164; 7, 3173; 8, 3182; 9, 3191; 10, 3200; 11, 3209; 12, 3218; 13, 3227; 14, 3236; 15, 3245; 16, 3254; 17, 3263; 18, 3272; 19, 3281; 20, 3290; 21, 3299; 22, 3308; 23, 3317; 24, 3326; 25, 3335; 26, 3344; 27, 3353; 28, 3362; 29, 3371; 30, 3380; 31, 3389; 1, 3398; 2, 3407; 3, 3416; 4, 3425; 5, 3434; 6, 3443; 7, 3452; 8, 3461; 9, 3470; 10, 3479; 11, 3488; 12, 3497; 13, 3506; 14, 3515; 15, 3524; 16, 3533; 17, 3542; 18, 3551; 19, 3560; 20, 3569; 21, 3578; 22, 3587; 23, 3596; 24, 3605; 25, 3614; 26, 3623; 27, 3632; 28, 3641; 29, 3650; 30, 3659; 31, 3668; 1, 3677; 2, 3686; 3, 3695; 4, 3704; 5, 3713; 6, 3722; 7, 3731; 8, 3740; 9, 3749; 10, 3758; 11, 3767; 12, 3776; 13, 3785; 14, 3794; 15, 3803; 16, 3812; 17, 3821; 18, 3830; 19, 3839; 20, 3848; 21, 3857; 22, 3866; 23, 3875; 24, 3884; 25, 3893; 26, 3902; 27, 3911; 28, 3920; 29, 3929; 30, 3938; 31, 3947; 1, 3956; 2, 3965; 3, 3974; 4, 3983; 5, 3992; 6, 4001; 7, 4010; 8, 4019; 9, 4028; 10, 4037; 11, 4046; 12, 4055; 13, 4064; 14, 4073; 15, 4082; 16, 4091; 17, 4100; 18, 4109; 19, 4118; 20, 4127; 21, 4136; 22, 4145; 23, 4154; 24, 4163; 25, 4172; 26, 4181; 27, 4190; 28, 4199; 29, 4208; 30, 4217; 31, 4226; 1, 4235; 2, 4244; 3, 4253; 4, 4262; 5, 42

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1857.7 (-3.0) FT-SE 100 1622.6 (-1.8) USM (Datastream) 118.0 (+0.16) THE POUND US dollar 1.4645 (-0.003) W German mark 3.2922 (-0.0244) Trade-weighted 74.0 (-0.3)

Associated cash call

Associated Newspapers has revealed that the cost of its plans to modernize production facilities for its national newspapers will be £130 million.

Jourdan leaps

Thomas Jourdan, the holding company with interests ranging from Mary Quant royalties to manufacturing fireplaces, pushed pretax profits up by 62 per cent to £1.35 million last year.

Agency jumps

Davidson Pearce, the advertising agency, made pretax profits of £2.26 million last year, up from £1.7 million in 1984.

No appeal

Argyll has decided against pursuing its legal challenge to Guinness's rival £2.4 billion bid for Distillers, the whisky group.

Denial by Dee

Dee Corporation refused to comment yesterday on reports that it was considering a takeover bid for Woolworth.

Seed choice

Lazard Brothers has been appointed by Government to look into the feasibility of privatizing the National Seed Development Organization.

Asda chief

Mr David Donoe, chairman of Dalgety, is to succeed Mr Noel Stockdale as chairman of Asda-MFI Group on October 31.

N Sea output

Britain's North Sea oil output averaged about 2.72 million barrels a day last month, compared with January's 2.77 million, according to preliminary estimates by Petroleum Information.

Cavenham vote

A resolution to place Cavenham into voluntary liquidation has been passed. Shareholders representing 81.52 per cent of the total votes capable of being exercised voted in favour.

Dove bought

William Collins has acquired Dove Communications of Melbourne. Dove will merge with Collins's financial interests and trade as Collins Dove.

BHP stake

Broken Hill Proprietary of Australia said it controls 23.82 million Bell Resources shares, or 24.7 per cent of the capital.

BL board likely to back Land Rover bid by GM

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The board of BL meets today to decide on which of the bids it prefers for the takeover of Land Rover Leyland subsidiary. The Government is expected to make a final choice before Easter.

While General Motors remains the sole bidder for the entire subsidiary, the Cabinet committee set up to consider BL's privatization has been looking favourably on the prospect of a management-led buyout for Land Rover following growing public opinion that the company should be kept British.

The management of Leyland has given its full support to the GM takeover and the BL board is likely to take the same view.

GM has made public its insistence that without Land Rover it is not interested in acquiring the Leyland Vehicles arm of BL. Its view may

have changed, however, following Government pressure and the weekend news that Ford is to merge its heavy truck operations in Europe with that of Iveco, the Fiat commercial vehicle company.

Ford has apparently told the Government that there will be no job losses at the Langley plant in Buckinghamshire where about 1,500 are employed on heavy truck production.

The official declined to say when the agreement, involving Fiat's Iveco division and

Mr Ray Horrocks, the chairman of BL Cars and a main board director, said last week that his preference was for a GM takeover and he poured cold water on the efforts of his colleague, Mr David Andrews, to put together a buyout.

Other bidders include Mr Ronald "Tiny" Rowlands's Loughro group.

Meanwhile, BL confirmed yesterday that it had received another expression of interest

for Land Rover from Lancashire Enterprises, a job creation company founded by the county council. It wants to buy Leyland Vehicles and Leyland Parts.

GM, which owns 66 per cent of Lotus, the British sports car company, has announced plans to raise production from 800 to 10,000 cars a year which could result in a doubling of the present workforce within 18 months.

per cent stake in a London-based holding company. The remaining 4 per cent would be held by a British merchant bank.

A similar formula was considered but abandoned by Fiat and Ford last year when the two companies discussed merging their European car manufacturing operations.

Fiat and Ford truck merger nearer

Turin (Reuters) - Fiat of Italy and Ford of Europe are close to announcing an agreement to merge their truck-making interests. The venture would rival West Germany's Daimler-Benz, a Fiat representative said.

The official declined to say when the agreement, involving Fiat's Iveco division and

Ford's European trucks subsidiary, would be announced

But sources close to Fiat said the agreement was probably no more than a month away from completion.

The sources said that under the deal the two companies would jointly control the merged business through a 48

Morgan Grenfell up 40% as merger income soars

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, yesterday announced a 40 per cent surge in pretax profits after a sharp rise in its fee income, helped by the central role the bank is playing in the wave of mergers and acquisitions in the City.

However, Lord Catto, the chairman, said that a Stock Exchange quotation or a link with another company in its quest for capital after the collapse two weeks ago of its merger talks with Exco, the money broker.

Morgan Grenfell's pretax profit for 1985 after transfers to inner reserves increased to £54.5 million from £38.8 million.

Lord Catto said that fee income now produced three quarters of the bank's profits with a growing contribution from corporate finance activity where income has doubled over the past two years.

Morgan Grenfell gave advice on 93 completed mergers and acquisitions last year, with an aggregate value of £8.8 billion.

The group wants to raise about £100 million in new equity, probably from existing shareholders, to underpin its plans for growth after the big bang. It was unlikely, Lord Catto said, to raise that amount in one tranche.

"We are not having conversations with Exco and we are not considering a link with

another company at the moment," he added. "We will have to look at other ways of raising capital, but options other than approaching existing shareholders are not apparent at present."

Lord Catto denied reports that Morgan Grenfell was having talks with United States banks or with Rothschild, the investment company. But the bank may also seek further loan capital in the form of perpetual floating rate notes.

The bank signalled its need for more capital when it entered into merger talks with Exco, which would have brought the bank £350 million in cash, but the move was blocked.

Hanson has 21% of Imperial

By Alison Eadie

Hanson Trust had received 12 per cent acceptances by last Friday's closing date in its £2.5 billion bid for Imperial Group. Combined with 9 per cent bought by Hanson associates, Hanson now controls 21 per cent.

The offer has been extended until Friday to match the first closing date of United Biscuits' rival £2.56 billion bid. Mr Martin Taylor, a director of Hanson, said the company was encouraged by the result, as institutions normally made their decisions at the end of a bid.

He said that Hanson's all-paper offer of shares and convertible stock was worth 367p a share at Hanson's closing price yesterday of 179p, compared with United Biscuits' cash and paper offer worth 335p.

Hanson's cash and paper offer was worth 332p, Imperial closed at 333p.

Sir Hector Laing, chairman of United Biscuits, said the level of acceptances must be disappointing to Hanson. "Despite the inflated price of Hanson Trust shares, which have so unexpectedly risen in the last three weeks, UB remains better value for Imperial shareholders."

United Biscuits owns 14.9 per cent of Imperial. UB shareholders today decide at an extraordinary meeting whether to back their board's bid for Imperial. Proxies received so far are understood to be overwhelmingly in favour.

Imperial, which is recommending the UB bid, said it was delighted by the level of Hanson's acceptances. It suggested that the real level of acceptances was nearer 7 per cent, as institutions friendly to Hanson, who could retract their acceptances, made up the other 5 per cent.

The Hanson bid has passed the 42nd day, allowing shareholders to withdraw acceptances.

The Office of Fair Trading has yet to pronounce on whether the UB-Imperial merger will escape a competition reference after Imperial's sale to Dalgety of Golden Wonder. A decision is expected by Friday or early next week.

BET sale

BET has sold its South African crane-hire subsidiary, Grayston Plant Hire, to its main South African competitor, Johnsons Crane Hire, part of Joncrane, in return for cash and a 19 per cent interest in Joncrane.

Thorn deal

Thorn EMI has arranged a sale and lease back of almost all its fleet of over 13,000 vehicles. A revolving facility for £40 million has been arranged by Kleinwort Benson.

Fleet St plan given go-ahead

By Judith Huntley

The Daily Telegraph's printing works in Fleet Street are to be redeveloped with a 285-foot-high skyscraper, providing 250,000 sq ft of offices in a 20-storey building.

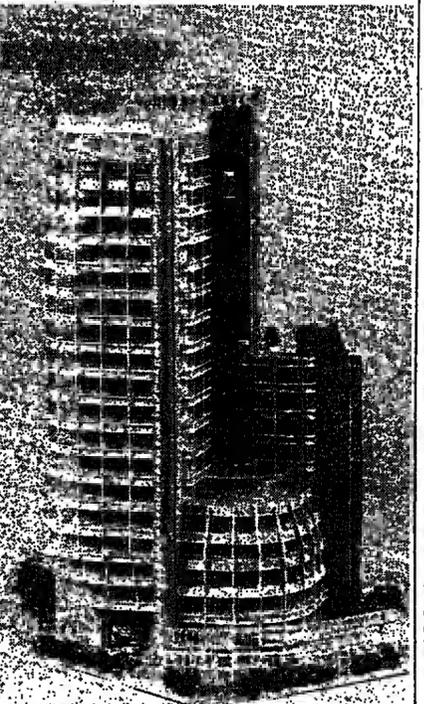
Rothschilds Developments, the little-known private property company, bought the site from the newspaper group in 1984 for an undisclosed sum.

It has now obtained planning permission for the tower from the freeholder of the site, the Corporation of the City of London.

The existing Daily Telegraph offices will remain, housing the newspaper's journalists and administrative office. But the printing works are due to move to the Isle of Dogs in Docklands next year.

The Daily Telegraph will lease back its offices from the developer and will share a small part of the development profits.

Rothschilds says the new tower will have a value of £100 million. It is possible that a City bank will move to Fleet Street or that a firm of lawyers or accountants will take the space in an area that is seeing a boom in office demand and rents.



The changing face of Fleet Street: a model of the tower.

Retail sales level off since autumn

Retail sales appear to have flattened out since the autumn, according to official figures released yesterday, writes David Smith.

Sales volume edged up by 0.1 per cent in last month, after dipping in January, but remains below levels recorded in the latter part of 1985.

The index of retail sales

volume was 117.1 (1980=100) last month, compared with 117 in January and 117.3 in December.

In the latest three months, sales have risen by 1 per cent compared with the previous three-month period, and by 3 per cent in comparison with the December-February period a year ago.

One possibility, in the first two months of this year, is that consumer spending has been diverted away from items of expenditure included within the retail sales figures.

Credit advances for car purchases, which are not included in the figures, were particularly strong in January.

Hopes rise for production pact by Opec ministers

From David Young, Geneva

The prospect of the 13 oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries reaching agreement on sharing output to meet world demand, and sending prices upwards, has been improved on the eve of the Budget.

Opec has called for a new detailed examination of likely world oil demand in 1986, broken down on a quarter-by-quarter basis. This is being interpreted as a sign that the producers are looking at a system of quarterly output quotas tied to world demand, as well as at the seasonal revenue needs of member countries.

A united front agreement on such a deal would have an immediate firming effect on

world oil prices, which have been sliding since Opec members gathered in Geneva on Sunday.

Mr Marc Rich, the international oil trader, who has been monitoring the Geneva meeting, said that he felt prices could move to \$15 a barrel.

Opec has adjourned its ministerial session until today, when it will hear a report from its advisers, who have been told to come up with a detailed and accurate assessment of world demand.

Although such a report was presented on Saturday by the Opec market monitoring committee, it is felt within Opec that a more detailed analysis is required so that proposals can

be considered in time for tomorrow's Opec meeting with several non-member oil producing countries which, it hopes, will co-operate in restraining production.

In addition, there is a feeling within Opec that, if it displays a readiness to reach an agreement on lower quotas, producers such as Britain and Norway will be under further pressure to co-operate in restraining output, possibly by extended maintenance shut-downs on North Sea platforms this summer.

However, until an agreement emerges - and Opec insists that it will have to be unanimous - the price war will continue.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Lawson robs Peter to pay Paul

Today's Budget ought to be straightforward. It is not, barring the unforeseen, a pre-election budget in which the high level of unemployment and the political imperative of major tax cutting would be the dominating factors. The Chancellor of the Exchequer will rise to his feet, conscious that business activity is high, government finances are under control and the rate of inflation is low and falling. His only serious problem arises from the collapse in world oil prices which has robbed the Exchequer of making the kind of tax cuts this year that would rally the troops behind him and help raise the Tory Party's drooping spirits.

Taking a line through forecasts made last year, this year's pro forma budget should have given Mr Lawson £3.5 billion, which he would have been free to use either in reducing taxes or in increasing public spending. A year ago the Treasury was looking for tax revenue from the North Sea in 1986-87 of £11.5 billion. Although the Treasury did not reveal the dollar price of oil (nor the sterling/dollar exchange rate) it had used in making this estimate, it is a safe bet that it was not anything like \$14 a barrel. If the Treasury was using the current oil price (and say an exchange rate of \$1.10-£1.20), it would be looking to North Sea revenues of the order of £5 billion, not £11.5 billion. Although one can add a touch here and there to the arithmetic, the outcome of the fall in oil prices in broad terms is that the

projected £3.5 billion of largesse for distribution tomorrow has disappeared. The room for net tax cuts does not exist.

That of course is not the end of the story. While prevented from making major cuts in income tax this year, Mr Lawson will proceed to rob Peter in order to pay Paul. Increases in indirect taxes will be greater than the 1985 inflation rate would require and the obvious way of redistributing extra revenue from petrol and tobacco is to raise income tax allowances by a greater margin than required by the indexing rules.

There are numerous variations in the Peter-Paul game but the one that most closely concerns the City is the widely bruited new tax on financial services, perhaps coupled with a punitive expedition by the Inland Revenue against those who have been changing jobs at very high salaries and transfer fees.

Reducing the cost of transactions in securities is perhaps the most important single helpful act the Government can perform for the City in advance of Big Bang (set for October 27). The London Stock Exchange has traditionally worked, and prospered, on a low volume, high mark up principle. As the two other major international markets have demonstrated, volume responds to price in terms of market activity. If London is to become the third significant international securities market, it must attract a significantly higher volume of trading.

Nifs, rufs and rule-making

International banking supervision has undergone a qualitative change with yesterday's publication of the Basic Committee's report on off-balance-sheet risk. It is the first time that bank regulators have seriously attempted to tackle an international problem more or less as it arises.

The need for a new set of rules to govern off-balance-sheet exposures arose because much of the off-balance-sheet business now being done by banks is itself entirely new. Options and swaps, nifs and rufs and a small arsenal of other instruments are inventions which traditional banking regulations were never designed to cover. They are indirect risks which have the merit of making no impact on banks' capital adequacy ratios. At the same time, the decline of traditional banking business has prompted international banks to embrace the new business with an enthusiasm that has worried supervisors.

That it has taken them less than two years to formulate a new regulatory approach to the new market is evidence of the growing maturity of international regulation. The success of the off-balance-sheet exposure rules may, however, turn out to be patchy. The committee states that one chief aim of its proposals is to reduce competitive

inequalities in the rules of different countries. The Bank of England was the first to impose risk weightings for off-balance-sheet risk, for example, but this put UK banks at a competitive disadvantage with banks of countries where no limits existed. But the committee does not specify risk weightings - these are left up to the supervisors of each country to determine. There may be broad agreement on what these should be - but then again, there may not.

The crucial message of the proposals is directed at least as much at banks themselves as at their supervisors. A central worry of the committee is that many second rank banks are undertaking new and fancy risks without understanding fully what they are doing. This is all the more damaging at a time when bank credit ratings are falling as a result of the poor performance of their traditional business. The Committee's guidelines are designed partly as a kind of handbook defining exactly what constitutes an off-balance-sheet risk and where the risk itself lies. But it is also a warning to banks to ensure that they have adequate management and control structures to cope with the new business before they become over-exposed by mistake. It remains to be seen whether the supervisors, for all their speed, have acted fast enough.

MARKET SUMMARY table with columns for STOCK MARKETS, CURRENCIES, INTEREST RATES, and MAIN PRICE CHANGES. Includes data for New York, Tokyo, London, and various interest rates.

Advertisement for Laing & Cruickshank, More than just a Stockbroker. Includes logo and contact information for Alexander Laing & Cruickshank Holdings Ltd.

COMMODITIES

Table with columns for LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE, LONDON METAL EXCHANGE, and LONDON FUTURE. Includes prices for various metals and commodities.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table showing STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES with columns for Market rates, 1 month, and 3 months.

The dollar fell against most important currencies in mostly quiet trading yesterday, affected by the publication of several worse-than-expected US indicators.

Table showing DOLLAR SPOT RATES for various countries including Ireland, Singapore, and Canada.

Other Sterling Rates: Argentina Austral, Hong Kong, India, Japan, etc.

WALL STREET

New York (Reuters) - Wall Street stocks held on to their gains yesterday as investors responded enthusiastically to a large 1.6 per cent drop in February producer prices.

The Dow Jones industrial average soared 39.03 points to a record 1792.74. It was also its biggest one-week rise, a gain of 90 points.

Advancing issues led declining shares by 1,036 to 633. "We are riding the crest of a very powerful, emotional wave in this market," Mr Eugene Peroni of Bateman Eichler, Hill Richards said.

The American Stock Exchange prices closed higher in heavy trading.

Large table listing various stocks and their prices, including columns for Bid, Offer, and Change.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Base Rates %: Clearing Banks 12%, Discount Banks 12%, Overnight 12%, 12m 10%, 6m 10%, 3m 10%.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %: 1 month 12%, 3 months 11%, 6 months 10%, 12 months 10%.

ECGD: 1 month 12%, 3 months 11%, 6 months 10%, 12 months 10%.

Gold: 1000 grams 347.00, 1000 grams 347.00, 1000 grams 347.00.

LONDON FUTURE: 3 month Sterling, 6 month Sterling, 9 month Sterling.

Canadian Prices: Abitibi, Alcan, Inco, etc.

Table showing LONDON FUTURE prices for various commodities.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Large table listing various unit trusts and their performance, including columns for Bid, Offer, and Change.

TEMPUS

Mail group reacts to news revolution

The aftershocks of Mr Rupert Murdoch's move to Wapping and the launch of Mr Eddy Shah's Today newspaper rumble on.

Associated Newspapers' £29.6 million rights issue, its first ever, is ostensibly to broaden the company's equity base, but it has been suggested by the need to remain competitive in a rapidly changing environment.

Not that the group has been surprised into having to modernize and re-equip. It had been planning to do so for some time, but at a fairly leisurely pace.

However, the speed of developments among its competitors has forced it to compress its timescales drastically and the plans have been brought forward by four years.

To keep its national newspapers alive the group will need to make a massive capital investment of £130 million to reorganize and modernize the production facilities required to print them. This will come from the rights issue, internal sources and bank loans.

The move to Surrey Docks, where Associated plans to print the London Standard, the Daily Mail and the Mail on Sunday in colour, is estimated to cost at least £100 million. The fate of the journalists and commercial staff has not been decided, but they may also be moved.

Implementation of the agreements to reduce staff in all the main production areas by 20 per cent will involve the group in further expense, although this will be recouped in cost savings in subsequent years.

Total London staff, including magazines, is about 4,200 and cuts of about 600 can be expected this year. More redundancies are expected with the move to Docklands in late 1988. Eventually, more than 1,200 jobs could go. Anything less could leave the newspapers uncompetitive.

The group remains rich in assets ranging from Blackfriars Oil to its holding in Reuters which was increased when the acquisition of the outstanding 50 per cent was consummated last December.

Pretax profits should be well up in the year to September compared with last year. Losses at the Mail on Sunday are being reduced while the sale of Esmond Gas will help to compensate for the fall in the oil price.

Pretax profit estimates range from £52 million to £54 million, putting the shares on a price-earnings multiple of about 11.

Davidson Pearce

The move by advertising agencies into related fields is gathering steam. Saatchi & Saatchi, which started the rush for Stock Exchange listings, pointed the way again with its acquisition last November of two British public relations groups.

Davidson Pearce, Britain's seventh largest agency, already has an offshore specialising in direct marketing.

This month it added Frontline, to concentrate on integrated above and below-the-line advertising services. Next month, it hopes to announce the acquisition of an advertising design company.

It intends to continue building up a raft of self-sufficient operations around the basic advertising business, with PR, sales promotion and design, earmarked as the most promising areas.

Money seems to be no object. The 1985 balance sheet showed a healthy, £1.2 million cash balance, £1 million of which was generated during the year.

Taxable profits last year were 33 per cent higher at £2.26 million, comfortably ahead of the forecast the company made when it came to market last October. Billings rose by 17 per cent and look set to continue to grow.

Important accounts won at the end of last year included Marks and Spencer, Robert Bosch and Terry's of York, which together should boost billings by more than 10 per cent.

The one disappointment must be the share price. Offered at 160p and 4.3 times over-subscribed, the shares only reached 170p yesterday.

a marked underperformance against a roaring bull market. The p/e ratio on historic earnings is just over 17 and on prospective earnings, assuming profits of £2.7 million and tax at 38 per cent, is just over 13. The shares are cheaper than many in the sector, possibly because the agency lacks some of the gloss of its competitors. It is, however, a soundly-based company in a growth industry.

Thomas Jourdan

Few companies can claim, on the face of it, as little industrial logic as Thomas Jourdan.

A mixture of earnings from 1960s stylist Mary Quant, fireplaces, make-up brushes, nursery products such as coats and prams, and trouser presses can best be described as odd. "Jokey" would be more fitting were things not going so well.

But for the year ended December 28 Thomas Jourdan reported pretax profits of £1.3 million compared with £837,000, an increase of 62 per cent.

The shares delighted in the improvement yesterday, rising 26p to 195p, having come up from 114p last year. Turnover increased by 29 per cent to £11.2 million and earnings a share by 94 per cent to 18.8p. The dividend goes up by 17 per cent to a total of 7.35p.

There can be relatively little bid premium in the shares. The group is capitalized at around £12 million and the market's favourite predators are all involved in seeking out bigger fish. But Thomas Jourdan has tended to grab the market's eye because of its involvement with Mary Quant.

The chairman, Archie McNair, has acquired a group of branded consumer businesses, all moving ahead at the same encouraging rate. His recently acquired Lioo brush business looks to be another winner.

It seems difficult to look for any further dramatic growth in the shares, but the underlying strength of the activities should shore the shares up in the event of any overall market weakness.

Shares pause before the Budget

Stock markets paused for breath after last week's bout of frenzied buying but the mood was still one of confidence as dealers waited for the Budget.

The day began well with the FT-30 Index hitting a record 1371.4 in the first hour of trading after Friday's 39-point surge on Wall Street. However, it soon became obvious that investors were unwilling to chase prices too high while Opec ministers were discussing production levels and the Chancellor's measures were still a secret. So prices began slipping on light profit-taking with the closing trend easing.

Stierling received a late fillip from speculation that Saudi Arabia was willing to observe production restraints to stabilize prices at between \$15 and \$20 a barrel. But the move did little for share prices.

Glits managed gains to three-eighths, still anticipating base rate cuts of a half percentage or one percentage point later this week. Leading industrialists were no worse than mixed. ICI lost 8p to 992p in sympathy with America but Courtaulds were supported again at 288p, up 6p, and Hawker reflected a firm engineering sector at 581p, up 8p.

Trusthouse Forte rose 4p more to 195p. They had reached 202p in early trading after a press report suggested that the company was preparing to receive a bid.

In quieter stores, which were unaffected by the latest retail sales figures, Boots improved 6p to 272p after a heavy turnover in traded options. The Ostram venture did little for GEC, down 6p to 204p in a dull electronics sector. Wellcome continued to anticipate an anti-Aids breakthrough with a 12p rise to 231p after 240p.

Associated British Ports surged 25p to 523p ahead of the results, due on April 2. The company is also believed to be a takeover target for P & O. S W Berisford was a late lateure at 226p, up 24p awaiting bid developments from Ferruzzi or Hilladown.

Westland celebrated the signing of a £65 million Indian helicopter contract with an 8p rise to 86p. A disappointing 15 per cent profit setback cut 12p from Cambridge Electronics at 303p.

Associated Newspapers were another dull spot at 288p, down 7p after the company's reorganization plans, which involve a £30 million rights issue. Turner and Newall, reporting on Thursday, went up 5p to 184p, but Expamet International at 165p, up 7p, looked forward to today's results.

Firm builders had J Jarvis up 30p to 310p in a thin market, while Barrat Developments added 4p to 144p ahead of Thursday's figures. Good profits and scrip proposals strengthened Metaltrax 2p to 82p and Thomas Jourdan 19p to 190p.

Engineers did well in the middle of the reporting season. Jones and Shipman were 122p, up 10p, and Delta Group 241p, up 10p ahead of figures later this week. Beaton Clark were marked up 8p to 196p on the profits recovery.

Davidson Pearce were 170p, up 4p, and Davies and Metcalfe 80p, up 17p. Charlie Browns Carparks were 5p better at 150p and Pittard Group 4p up at 94p. All reflected satisfactory statements. The best of the weekend "press tips" included Manders at 225p, Hall Engineering at 174p, Fobel at 56p, Unigate at 296p, W Caniog at 130p and Jameson's Chocolates at 135p.

Profit-taking knocked 9p from Ladbroke at 338p and 8p from Vantona at 492p. Invergordon Distillers attracted speculative interest at 166p up 5p. Reports of a possible link between Woolworths and Dec Corporation did little for the share prices. Both were down around 5p.

Expansion hopes lifted Barham 7p to 172p. Octopus advanced 30p to 630p ahead of Thursday's results. S R Geot, reporting today, lost 6p to 64p on nervous offerings. Reuters were firm at 475p, up 10p on American support. Willis Faber improved 5p to 437p in sympathy with Morgan Grenfell results. MAI added 5p to 390p on the 30 per cent expansion in earnings. World of Leather continued to benefit from last week's figures, up 10p to 220p.

Leeds development prospects continued to excite Clayflom at 265p, up 12p. Dwek Group were wanted at 75p up 10p while other speculative favourites to attract attention included James Dickie at 65p, up 11p, and Frederick Cooper, 9p higher at 65p.

Banks made a dull showing after the sharp gains last week and insurers failed to hold early honest rises. Properties were selectively supported, with Cussins among the best at 215p up 25p. Mermos slipped 4p to 40p after figures. Rank Organisation gave up another 9p to 510p, awaiting this week's appeal against IBA's rejection of the bid from Granada.

RECENT ISSUES

Table with columns for company names and share prices. Includes Klearfold (118p), Lexicon (115p), Macro 4 (105p), etc.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table with columns for company names and share prices. Includes Cullans N/P, Hartwells N/P, NMW Comp, etc.

COMMODITIES REVIEW

Tin debacle threatens other pacts

From its dramatic beginning to its muddled end the great tin crisis looked like a watershed. As in the aftermath of a mighty volcanic upheaval, the landscape will never be the same again (which is not necessarily a bad thing).

One topographical feature which seems to have changed permanently is the way internationally-traded commodities are priced, in particular the role of commodity agreements.

The whole disastrous tin episode looks like the final nail in the coffin of the beighted United Nations' Conference on Trade and Development's much-touted Integrated Programme for Commodities. The fact that the tin crisis was probably in an advanced state of assembly does not soften the impact of the tin debacle. Indeed, the timing could hardly have been worse.

There is not a single pact covering an important commodity whose economic clauses - those governing prices - can honestly be said to be working. Sugar, cocoa, coffee, and rubber have either lost clauses because attempts to recast them failed, or prices are trading outside the prescribed range. Coffee is the most spectacular example of the latter, world prices being more than 50 cents a pound above the agreed ceiling of 150 cents.

The reasons for this ragged anatomy of the dreams of the 1960s - the belief that international agreement could make the world a better and fairer place - are well rehearsed. Producers of all kinds of raw materials, not just agricultural, have been more successful at mining and growing than at adjusting to the realities of over-supply (however much that may be exaggerated by distribution distortions).

Commodity agreements rest like the United Nations, which embraced them, on the assumption that governments will or can behave responsibly. Yet it is difficult in the aftermath of the tin crisis to cling to such assumptions.

When 22 sovereign countries default on debts which were individually insubstantial, the foundations of commodity agreements are undermined. Moreover, as a default it is blatant.

The heavily-indebted nations of Latin America or Africa at least had the decency to say that they would repay at some time. With tin we have been treated to the spectacle of nine members of the European Community, given to lecturing developing countries on how to behave, simply abandoning an organization which they solemnly voted three years ago to perpetuate.

The fact that these moralistic EEC members run the biggest commodity agreement bonus and rights issues, 25.2p (19.3p).

CAMBRIDGE ELECTRONIC INDUSTRIES: The final dividend is 5.25p, making 7.45p (7p) for 1985, payable on May 13. With figures in 000, turnover was 135,653 (129,332), trading profit 10,630 (12,326), interest 354 (317), pretax profit 276 (12,009), tax 4,138 (3,956), minorities 268 (316), earnings per share 15.7p (21.5p).

MAI: For the six months to December 31 the dividend is 4p (same). New shares will rank. With figures in 000, turnover was 96,546 (81,333), pretax profit 337 (12,681), including interest credit 1,029, tax 5,881 (4,602), outside shareholders' interests 85 (160), extraordinary debit 1,861 (nil), principally rationalization, redundancy and reorganization costs 1,920 (nil), earnings per share 21.4p (19.3p adjusted).

PITTARD GROUP: The final dividend is 2.76p, making 3.72p for last year. With figures in 000 turnover was 40,959 (34,832), including exports 18,346 (15,188), trading profit 3,507 (3,045), interest paid 498 (549), pretax profit was 2,667 (2,208) and tax was 545 (372).

Greycoat raises record £76m property loan

By Judith Handley, Commercial Property Correspondent. Greycoat Group, the property company, is raising the largest single syndicated loan for a commercial property in the United Kingdom. It has agreed a £76 million limited recourse loan through N M Rothschild, the finance house and the Allied Irish Investment Bank.

The loan will be used to buy and reconstruct Lutyns House, Finsbury Circus, close to the City of London, with 190,000 sq ft of offices. It follows the company's £37 million rights issue, undertaken, in the meantime, to ensure that the developer retains a large slice of the equity in its developments.

Other banks participating in the Lutyns House loan are Kleinwort Benson, the Swiss Bank Corporation, the Bank of Scotland, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Security Pacific National Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, Credit Agricole and Dresdner Aktiengesellschaft.

The loan has been arranged for seven years at 7/8 per cent a year over London Interbank Offered Rate. Greycoat has undertaken to refinance the scheme after seven years and will pay the bank interest on the loan if it does not do so.

Bluecrest to cost Fitch £6.1m more

Fitch Lovell is to pay an extra £6.1 million for Bluecrest Foods as a result of the profits Bluecrest has made. The estimated amount will be provided by the proceeds of a vendor placing of 2,219,895 Fitch shares carried out yesterday, subject to completion of the acquisition agreement and the admission of the new shares to the Stock Exchange.

Any extra amount to be paid for the takeover will be met in cash. Bluecrest's net profit for the year to December 28 is estimated to be not less than £1.5 million.

Fitch Lovell announced in September that it was paying £4 million for Bluecrest, a Grimby frozen food company. The deal involved a further payment of up to £8 million depending on Bluecrest's profits.

COMPANY NEWS

INVERGORDON DISTILLERS: The final dividend is 3.25p (2.75p), making 4.75p (4.2p) shares issued in November 1985 rank for final dividend. Turnover for the year to December 31 - figures in 000 - was 30,777 (25,959), including duty 2,436 (142) operating profit 5041 (4512), interest payable 4996 (379), earnings per share 15.7p (14.7p). The figures include one month's trading from the acquisition of Scottish and Newcastle Breweries.

CHARLIE BROWN'S CAR PART CENTRES: The figures are for the half year to January 31. The interim dividend is 1p. With figures in 000, turnover was 8,573 (7,052), operating profit 394 (281), interest payable 77 (52), pretax profit 317 (189), tax 122 (88) and earnings per share 3.30 (2p).

CITY OF ABERDEEN LAND: As forecast at the time of the rights issue the interim dividend is 6p (5.35p adjusted). The figures for the six months to January 31 are as follows: turnover 9,971 (8,185), pretax profit 843 (619), tax 320 (217), earnings per share, adjusted for

AVIS D'APPEL D'OFFRES

La Régie de Production et de Distribution d'Eau et d'Electricité du Burundi (Regideso) lance un appel d'offres international pour la réalisation des travaux ci-apres:

Lot Nr. 1: Ligne à 110 KV Ruzizi II - Bubanza et raccordement à Bubanza de la ligne à 110KV Rwegura - RNI.

Lot Nr. 2: Postes 110/30 KV de Bubanza et de Cibitoke. La Regideso a obtenu un crédit de l'Association Internationale de Développement "I.D.A." (Banque Mondiale) pour financer le coût de la liaison Ruzizi II-Burundi.

La participation est ouverte aux fournisseurs entrepreneurs admis à soumissionner conformément aux directives concernant la passation des marchés financés par les prêts de la Banque Mondiale et les crédits de l'I.D.A. Les lieux d'exécution sont les suivants:

Lot Nr. 1: en République du Burundi, du Rwanda et du Zaïre entre la centrale de Ruzizi II et la province de Bubanza.

Lot Nr. 2: en République du Burundi dans les villes de Cibitoke, Bubanza et Bujumbura ainsi qu'au Rwanda dans la Préfecture de Cyangugu.

Le délai d'exécution est à proposer par le soumissionnaire mais ne saurait en aucun cas excéder 23 mois. Les candidats admissibles à concourir peuvent obtenir des informations complémentaires et examiner les dossiers d'appel d'offres dans les bureaux de:

Regideso B.P. 660 Bujumbura (Burundi) Tel: 5006 BDI

Electricité de France International (Ingénieur-Conseil pour le projet) 68 Rue du Faubourg Saint Honoré 75008 Paris (France) Tel: 660 434 F Telephone: (1) 47 64 66 72

Les documents d'appel d'offres peuvent être obtenus sur demande écrite adressée à Electricité de France International à compter du 1er Avril 1986 ou à Regideso à compter du 3 Avril 1986, contre paiement d'un montant non remboursable de 2500FRF par lot.

BUDGET UPDATE? GET IN TOUCH! PRESTEL USERS

From 3.30 pm this afternoon just key 533689 on Prestel for a minute by minute report and analysis of the Chancellor's Budget proposals from our tax advisory team.

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Williams de Broë Event Group plc Offer for subscription of 800,000 ordinary shares at £1 each. A retailer of quality shoes, selling under the names "Event" and "Duo", and of clothing under "Benetton" franchises currently trading from 11 shops. Pre-tax profit projection of £308,000 for current year.

BARCLAYS IN SWITZERLAND. Following the announcement that the Barclays Group has sold its shareholding in Barclays Bank (Suisse) SA, Barclays Bank PLC is pleased to announce the formation of a new, wholly owned, Swiss banking subsidiary: BARCLAYS BANK SA. The Head Office is located in Geneva, with branches in Zurich (incorporating the existing business of Barclays Bank PLC), Geneva and Lugano. The bank will offer a full range of private investment banking and commercial services.

BASE LENDING RATES. ABN 12%, Adam & Company 12%, BCCI 12%, Citibank Savings 12%, Consolidated Crds 12%, Commercial Trust 12%, Co-operative Bank 12%, C. Hoare & Co 12%, Lloyds Bank 12%, Nat Westminster 12%, Royal Bank of Scotland 12%, TSB 12%, Citibank NA 12%

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stand. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, Year since issue. Rows include BUILDING AND ROADS, INDUSTRIALS A-D, ELECTRICALS, CAP GP, and Stone Ltd.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Next Week. Includes a note: Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £40,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: 1985/86 High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes funds like Anglo Saxon, Anglo Saxon Growth, Anglo Saxon Income.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: Year, % Change, % P/E. Includes data for 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: Year, % Change, % P/E. Includes data for 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986.

UNDATED table with columns: Year, % Change, % P/E. Includes data for 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986.

INDEX-LINKED table with columns: Year, % Change, % P/E. Includes data for 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP table with columns: Bank, % Change, % P/E. Includes data for Allied Irish, Anglo Saxon, Bank of Ireland.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities fade

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 10. Dealings end March 27. \$Contango day April 1. Settlement day, April 7. \$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Main stock exchange price table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for BREWERIES, BUILDING AND ROADS, FOODS, FINANCE AND LAND, INSURANCE, LEISURE, MINING, and OVERSEAS TRADERS.

FINANCE AND LAND table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes companies like Anglo Saxon, Anglo Saxon Growth.

FOODS table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes companies like Anglo Saxon, Anglo Saxon Growth.

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THE TIMES Portfolio DAILY DIVIDEND £2,000 Claims required for +50 points Claimants should ring 0254-53772

OVERSEAS TRADERS table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes companies like Anglo Saxon, Anglo Saxon Growth.

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes companies like Anglo Saxon, Anglo Saxon Growth.

PROPERTY table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes companies like Anglo Saxon, Anglo Saxon Growth.

MINING table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes companies like Anglo Saxon, Anglo Saxon Growth.

SHIPPING table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes companies like Anglo Saxon, Anglo Saxon Growth.

SHOES AND LEATHER table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes companies like Anglo Saxon, Anglo Saxon Growth.

TEXTILES table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes companies like Anglo Saxon, Anglo Saxon Growth.

TOBACCO table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes companies like Anglo Saxon, Anglo Saxon Growth.

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes companies like Anglo Saxon, Anglo Saxon Growth.

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes companies like Anglo Saxon, Anglo Saxon Growth.

OIL table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes companies like Anglo Saxon, Anglo Saxon Growth.

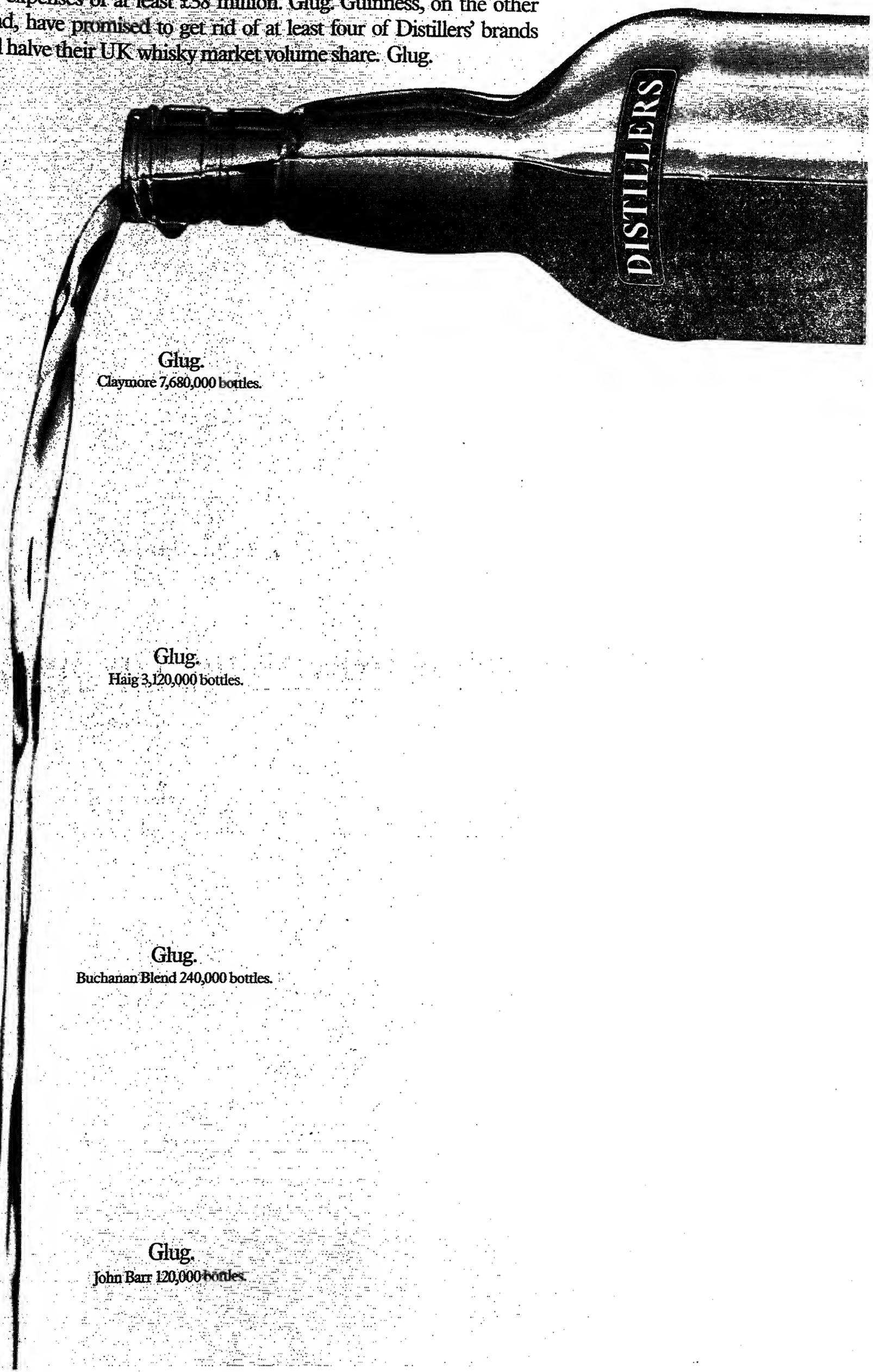
INDEX-LINKED table with columns: Year, % Change, % P/E. Includes data for 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986.

UNDATED table with columns: Year, % Change, % P/E. Includes data for 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986.

Price in this section refer to Friday's trading

Handwritten note: *Handwritten text in a box at the top right of the page.*

Unbelievable. Distillers' directors have agreed to pay Guinness' bid expenses of at least £38 million. Glug. Guinness, on the other hand, have promised to get rid of at least four of Distillers' brands and halve their UK whisky market volume share. Glug.



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Glug.
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COMPUTER HORIZONS/1

Eureka needs a cash boost

The Eureka research project, an attempt by the French to offer Europe an alternative to the American Star Wars programme, is in danger of becoming the newest vehicle for the inefficient bureaucracies of European governments.

Apart from France, no government seems prepared to underwrite the cost of expensive research and the projects themselves are now destined to be co-ordinated by a secretariat. That became increasingly obvious last week.

European electronic giants like Philips appear reluctant to join the programme and are typical of the industrialists' view that the project lacks direction, is high in political rhetoric but low in real commitment.

In Britain the idea has gained approval in Whitehall but the lack of real funding available to the British companies questions the UK's commitment. Could the UK government be concerned that its funding of Eureka - modest though it is - be seen as an overt act of anti-Americanism? What is obvious, however, is the government's firm intention not to create a new source of finance.

land, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey.

The spring declaration was followed by a ministerial conference in Paris in the summer when the French, using a great deal of their political clout, got the member states to support the idea.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, observed protocol by declaring Britain's commitment but in the same breath ensured that the government would not be harassed to a high research bill. The monies for the research, he emphasised, would come from British industry.

The government announced last week that it will host a ministerial conference in June. Politicians and bureaucrats will be there in abundance. At the same time the government assured us that it and the other EEC member governments had a major role to play.

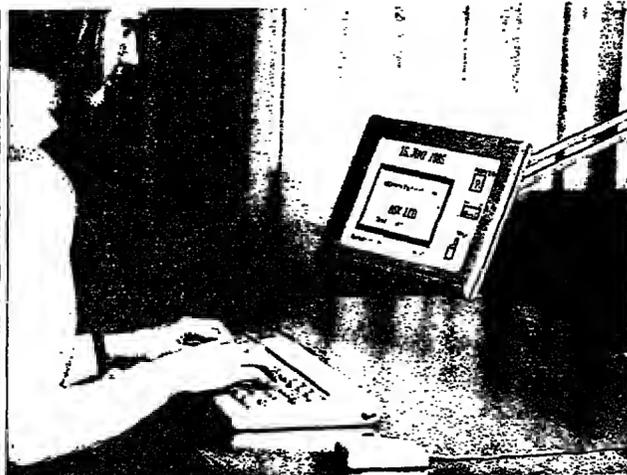
That role, they claim, is:

- To ensure that information about projects and proposals is circulated widely;
- To identify the need for action by national and international bodies; and
- To focus discussion on obstacles to the collaborative research ventures.

Nowhere is there a hint in this brief that special EEC funds be made available to the project, that tax incentives be given to companies able and willing to fund long research programmes and that large-scale financial assistance be given to small companies. There are now 26 projects approved with another 42 in the pipeline. There are six British companies taking part in these projects.

The high technology companies of Europe do not need governments to co-ordinate their research. They may need money and political help in trying to prize open those lucrative international markets like the US and Japan which are closed to most European manufacturers. Those are the roles that the Eureka governments could usefully play. Any other is play-acting.

The Japanese have been trying to canvass support in Britain and the rest of Europe for their own research programme as an alternative to Star Wars and a competitor to Eureka. Reports from Tokyo indicate that a 20-year programme is being planned with a fund of \$4,000 million. All the main industrial countries of the West - Canada, the United States, West Germany, France, Italy and Britain - are being sought by the Japanese for partnerships. Advanced computer research is one of the subjects prominent on the research agenda.



Screen with a lot of poise

By Matthew May

Is this likely to be the new look for the computerised office of the 1990s? Looking for a new display technology that can remove the bulky computer terminal from the office desk will no doubt eventually become as much of a concern as the need for flat screens to provide lightweight displays on portable computers.

In fact, this example on display in Hanover is the first for desktops, say the Norwegian manufacturers Ask Ltd. It is based on the current technology used in portables, the liquid crystal display, though with some improvements.

Such displays usually have problems in matching the capabilities of desktop terminals and can be difficult to read from certain angles or in

some lighting conditions. Hence the fact that they have so far been used in portables where the option of lugging around a conventional cathode ray tube is not feasible.

Other technologies which provide better quality displays such as gas plasma or electroluminescent screens are in development, but they are expensive and consume too much power to run off batteries easily.

However, as the picture shows, there are clear advantages in being able to reduce computer displays to a glorified anglepoise lamp. Screens can easily be moved and positioned, take up little desk space and this particular "flexible tele-visual system" is clearer and easier to read than the screens used on portables. It is the same screen size as

standard terminals, can be provided with a light behind the screen to improve legibility and will work with the IBM PC or any of the compatibles.

So far the screens are still in the prototype stage but should be available commercially this summer in two options - black text displayed on either a yellow or grey background. Price will initially be a fairly steep £800, around the price of many colour terminals, though it should become cheaper if the idea takes off.

Stepping carefully through the minefield of conflicting reports on the health hazards of using computer terminals, the manufacturers hint that as liquid crystal display screens do not have the glare or flicker of conventional terminals they could even be better to work with.

Britain warned: 'Fund us or fail'

By Frank Brown

Britain and the rest of Europe could lose its leading role in optical processing - a new technology that could revolutionise computing and communications - if industry does not fund and participate in its further development.

This stark warning was given by Professor Desmond Smith of Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, who leads the research team that has developed the world's first optical processor. Professor Smith was speaking at the premiere of a working model of the processor at the Hannover exhibition of information technology, now on in the West German city.

Optical processing uses laser beams to process data at least 1,000 times faster than current computers. At the centre of the new technology are optical logical elements developed by Heriot-Watt that can perform the same basic logic and switching functions as electronic transistors.

The new elements consist of an ultra-thin film of crystal material upon which a laser



Professor Desmond Smith, right, of Heriot-Watt University and Professor P. Mandel of the University Libre in Brussels with the world's first working model of an optical processor. Currently on show at the Hannover Cebit Fair the model opens up the possibility of computers capable of operating 1,000 times faster than present day electronic computers. It could also boost communications by simplifying the use of fibre-optic cable and accelerating the adoption of optical networks capable of carrying voice, data, television and other video traffic simultaneously.

The technique also opens up the possibility of powerful parallel processors that can carry out thousands of tasks simultaneously instead of serially.

Such machines will be powerful aids for astronomy, scientific research, weather forecasting and military applications.

Optical processing devices could also accelerate the adoption of fibre-optic communications networks whose implementation has been hindered by the lack of cost-effective switching and branching devices.

TV phones that will enable subscribers to see their callers will also be possible. A significant advantage from the military viewpoint is that optical processors are significantly less vulnerable to nuclear radiation.

The processor on show at Hannover has been developed under the European Commission's EJOB (European Joint Optical Bisability Project) that co-ordinates research teams in Britain, France, Belgium, Italy, and West Germany.

The project was established in 1984 and is scheduled to end in July. The commission has promised further support but not enough to finance the considerable amount of research work still needed.

Professor Smith said the technology has been developed to the stage where the results of the research could be developed for commercial applications. How rapidly they would become commercial products, however, depends on how quickly they were taken up by industry, he says.

A few British firms have expressed interest but companies in other European countries have been more positive.

He estimated that Europe had about a year's lead in optical-processing technology, but this will soon be lost if industry does not take action.

Considerable development is being undertaken in the USA and Japan. The Pentagon recently formed a consortium of nine research organisations, including seven universities which are being funded as part of the Strategic Defence Initiative to produce an optical computer.

Heriot-Watt has already received a substantial study contract from Dayton University, the SDI main contractor. To try to foster further developments in optical processing, Heriot-Watt has made its new elements available commercially through Edinburgh Instruments, a Scottish firm which is closely associated with the university in the development of lasers and other optical devices.

THE WEEK

By Bill Johnstone
Technology Correspondent

Twenty-six projects which span the entire spectrum of Information Technology (IT) have been approved by the participating European members and Britain's contribution will derive from the poor general research budget of £360m for the year. Companies can apply for up to 50 per cent of research costs and up to 25 per cent of those for development.

The programme clearly needs direction and a greater commitment from the member states other than France. The idea is excellent and can only be deemed to be anti-American by jingoistic anti-European Americans.

Top researchers are to be given funding to pursue their work in non-defence projects. The result of that research, embracing every area of IT, is meant to marry the talents of European companies, both large and small, and give the continent independence in technology.

The Eureka initiative was unveiled officially in April last year by an eager French government publicly committed to the widespread use and development of IT. The programme now involves 18 European countries - the 12 member states of the EEC in the company of Austria, Fin-

The Japanese have words for it

The most impressive demonstration at this year's Hannover exhibition comes from a pilot office system demonstrated by the Japanese firm Ricoh which can link together voice commands, photos and diagrams and even handwriting.

Though it is arguable how useful voice recognition will ever be to the average office the ability to enter handwritten or typed notes and graphics automatically into the system and then quickly manipulate it into a page suitable for printing - the example used was a page for a travel brochure - has obvious advantages. As the system is still in development Ricoh was unable to comment on two important questions - how much it will cost and whether it will be able to read doctor's handwriting.

A small computerized unit available next month should simplify the detection of counterfeit gold bars and coins made from inferior alloys. Any item made of gold has its own particular

acoustic resonant frequency and the unit can measure this using a chip-controlled ultrasound technique.

Ultrasound waves, inaudible to the human ear, cause the gold bar or coin to vibrate. The testing unit will measure the maximum vibration frequency and compare it with the true value of the object if it is genuine. The West German firm Degussa, which developed the tester, will sell it in Britain for around £2,500.

The computer arm of the diversified West German giant BASF has announced a laser printer that will print 88 pages a minute. Aimed at companies with huge printing requirements, one example given was of a customer who needed to print 600,000 pages a month. It is likely to cost £85,000 to £90,000. In Britain BASF is about to start an advertising campaign in the computer press as it is concerned about its image. Most people apparently still identify the company with audio and video tapes even though its data technology di-

vision is now larger.

The progress towards a paperless factory is being featured in a computer integrated manufacturing system being demonstrated at Hannover by McDonnell Douglas. A variety of computers, terminals, robots and design workstations have been linked with the aim of showing how integrating the different functions of factory production could improve efficiency.

The system on display, which has been developed from one designed for aircraft manufacture, can also be linked to a network that can allow drawings, reports and company invoices to be exchanged between companies regardless of the brand of computer system being used.

HANOVER BRIEFING

beam, called the "hold" beam, is focused to maintain the device just below its switch-on level. A second weaker beam is focused on the same point and gives control.

Marginally increasing the control beam is enough to raise the intensity of the input light to turn the element on, thereby increasing greatly the level of light output. Thus a very small change in input light intensity causes a large change in output light intensity.

The device is, therefore, bistable, it can be switched on and off - the two states corresponding to the 0s and 1s of digital processing. Combinations of the new devices can be arranged to form logic gates, amplifiers, and switches to perform any digital processing function.

They can also be linked and arranged to operate continuously as a computer, processing and storing information optically instead of electronically.

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SPECIALIST SUBJECT: ENGLISH

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Q. Correct. How does the Intelligent Assistant work?
A. By using its own intelligent processing and the way you talk to it, it can do the most for you.

Q. Correct. Anything else?
A. Yes. By using its own intelligent processing and the way you talk to it, it can do the most for you.

Q. Correct. What makes Q&A the confidential manager's choice?
A. Its secure, reliable and easy to use interface. Its ability to understand your business and help you to run it more effectively.

Q. Correct. Who could use Q&A?
A. Anyone in business. In the professional and business sectors.

Q. Correct. And is Q&A expensive?
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Q. Correct. What is the other big deal about Q&A?
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Q. Correct. Thank you Q&A. I think that you've just helped me to understand your business and help me to run it more effectively.
A. Yes. By using its own intelligent processing and the way you talk to it, it can do the most for you.

Q. Correct. Thank you Q&A. I think that you've just helped me to understand your business and help me to run it more effectively.
A. Yes. By using its own intelligent processing and the way you talk to it, it can do the most for you.

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COMPUTER HORIZONS/2

AI school of philosophy

By Elizabeth Fowler

Artificial intelligence, an industry of the future, will need more philosophers, judging by an American course in logic and computation being offered at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

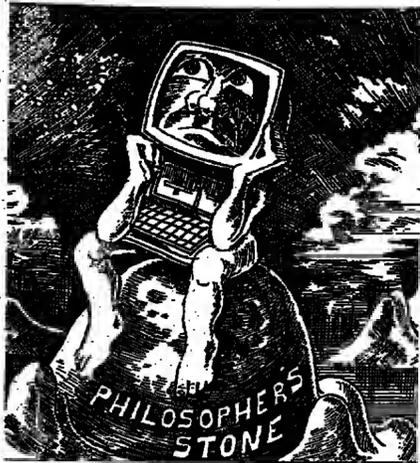
Dr Clark Glymour, professor of philosophy at the university, speaks of an increased demand for philosophy graduates. "It may seem odd," he said, "what happened is that some years ago philosophy grew closely connected to logical theory, which, in turn, was the genesis of computer algorithms involved in the development of digital computers."

"Programmers for computers are a dime a dozen, but what is needed are people who can take vaguely formed problems and find ways to make them precise enough to be programmed. This is what philosophers can do and they are planning a major role in artificial intelligence."

Like the human mind, so-called intelligent machines, such as equipment for medical diagnoses, must be capable of applying the knowledge it acquires - intelligence that must be programmed in.

The connection between philosophy and high technology has been reaching undergraduate level and Carnegie-Mellon began a course six months ago called Logic and Computation, involving studying the technical and theoretical issues in artificial intelligence.

All along, Dr Glymour said, there have been radical misconceptions about philoso-



phy. Perhaps one reason is that philosophy courses have placed too much emphasis on ethics - and he expects the numbers to move up with the realization that philosophy has arrived at the edge of high technology.

Many leaders in artificial intelligence have backgrounds in philosophy, with emphasis on logical thought such as Dr Herbert Simon, of the Carnegie-Mellon faculty, who is a Nobel Prize winner.

When Dr Bruce Buchanan, professor of computer science at Stanford University, designed the Dendral program, which helps chemists to identify the structure of molecules,

CD & PC: A marriage is announced

By Geof Wheelwright

A strange marriage of technology took place in Seattle, Washington last week. The compact disc (CD) and the personal computer (PC) were joined together in a quiet ceremony before several hundred of the top people in the international electronic and computer business.

Though the couple had been living together for some time, talk of any official link up between them was not possible until the supporters of each could sit down and discuss the terms of the arrangement.

It looks like more than a marriage of convenience.

The mass information storage capabilities from the CD technology - which has made it a hugely popular medium for storing high quality music (its developers claim that more than 2 million CD player units have been sold in less than three years) - could perfectly complement a growing need for quick information retrieval among PC users.

Last week's conference, sponsored by US software house Microsoft, was an attempt to bring an early set of standards to the business of booking together the two technologies deciding how the information will be physically set out on the compact disc and how it will be displayed on the screen.

It was not, however, just an obscure conference of boffins deciding on how bits and bytes will pass between computer and compact disc player.

Among the attendees were Microsoft boss Bill Gates, Digital Research founder (and long time Gates rival) Gary Kildall, along with senior executives from Apple, Borland, Hitachi and Ashton-Tape.

The conference also attracted the attention of large reference work publishers, who see CD-ROM (Compact Disc-Read Only Memory, the name given to the technology

which allows CD players to store computer information) as a way of offering reference books on relatively low cost computer storage media.

The American Grolier company, which publishes a popular encyclopedia in the US, has already invested a good deal of money in CD computer technology and now offers a version of its name encyclopaedias on CD-ROM.

This is made possible because the compact disc can hold more than 60 times the amount of information on a standard business computer's

More than 60 times the information

ten megabyte hard disc information storage system.

Even with the huge capacities of existing CD systems, however, you still cannot store a lot of information as TV-style pictures of encyclopedia pages. All the information in the encyclopedia must be keyed in by the publishing company to create a master disc through which copies are made.

Companies such as Grolier are hoping that meetings like the one in Seattle last week will allow the industry to establish a standard for "squashing down" the information on CD-ROM discs so that actual pictures of each encyclopedia page, complete with illustrations, can be encoded on a CD-ROM rather than displaying information just as simple text.



'My wife doesn't understand my PC'

Reprieve for paper in the office

By Richard Sarson

Computers are supposed to create the paperless office because they can hold documents on their discs and display them on their screens. But paper is making a comeback as output for computer systems on the executive's desk-top.

The device that has re-launched paper is the cheap laser printer. This does not print a character at a time, or a line at a time - like normal impact printers - but a page at a time. This makes it about 10 times as fast. Being non-impact, it is also half as noisy.

But most important it prints drawings, graphs, pie-charts and even photographs with as much ease as text. Previously, to print graphics you were stuck with matrix-printing which was slow and spotty, or graph plotters which were accurate but expensive and did not handle text well.

One company with high hopes that laser printers will be a new growth market is Rank Xerox, which built its copier business on creating paper. It is gambling its computer business - so far not notably successful - on the proposition that the laser printer will open up new markets for paper by its ability to print both words and pictures.

Carlos Pascual, Rank Xerox's director for business systems, is aiming at the in-house printing departments of large companies. The desk-top micro and laser printer can produce training manuals, technical sales catalogues, sales proposals and internal company newspapers. Before the laser a lot of this work was farmed out to printing firms which, its proponents argue, usually cost more and always took longer.

Education and the professions can also use laser-printers, says Mr Pascual, for examination papers in technical subjects, theses, syllabi and research papers. Lawyers, estate agents, surveyors and designers will be able to turn



Carlos Pascual: Aiming at in-house printing departments

out a better quality of printed document.

The final target will be the small jobbing printers who could use a laser printer to do most of their low-volume work that does not need too glossy a finish.

Xerox has other strengths in this new world of document management. It was they who, after all, invented the mouse and icon idea. They have used this for the software that shuffles chunks of text and graphics around the VDU.

Their screen is full A4 size, so you can build up a full page, ready for the laser to print it.

At the lower end of the market Apple says it now expects to sell 50 per cent of all Macintosh computers to this marketplace, which it calls "personal publishing." Commodore's Amiga is also partly aimed at this area - it can connect direct to typesetting machines.

Xerox has trained its 7,000 copier salesmen across Europe to sell its document management system - a huge force to attack an untied segment of the market. If it succeeds Xerox will finally make a mark on the computing scene.

COMPUTER APPOINTMENTS

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The chips are down in Vegas

Computers experts have been warned not to take any of their equipment into casinos in Las Vegas during an international conference there in June.

Jeremy Hill, of John Hill Travel, which is handling conference bookings for British delegates, said casino owners were worried that

computers could be used in card games to accept details of cards which had been dealt - then to work out the odds of winning a hand.

But in London a computer expert said: "You would have to be pretty deft to tap in the relevant information about particular cards as they were dealt."

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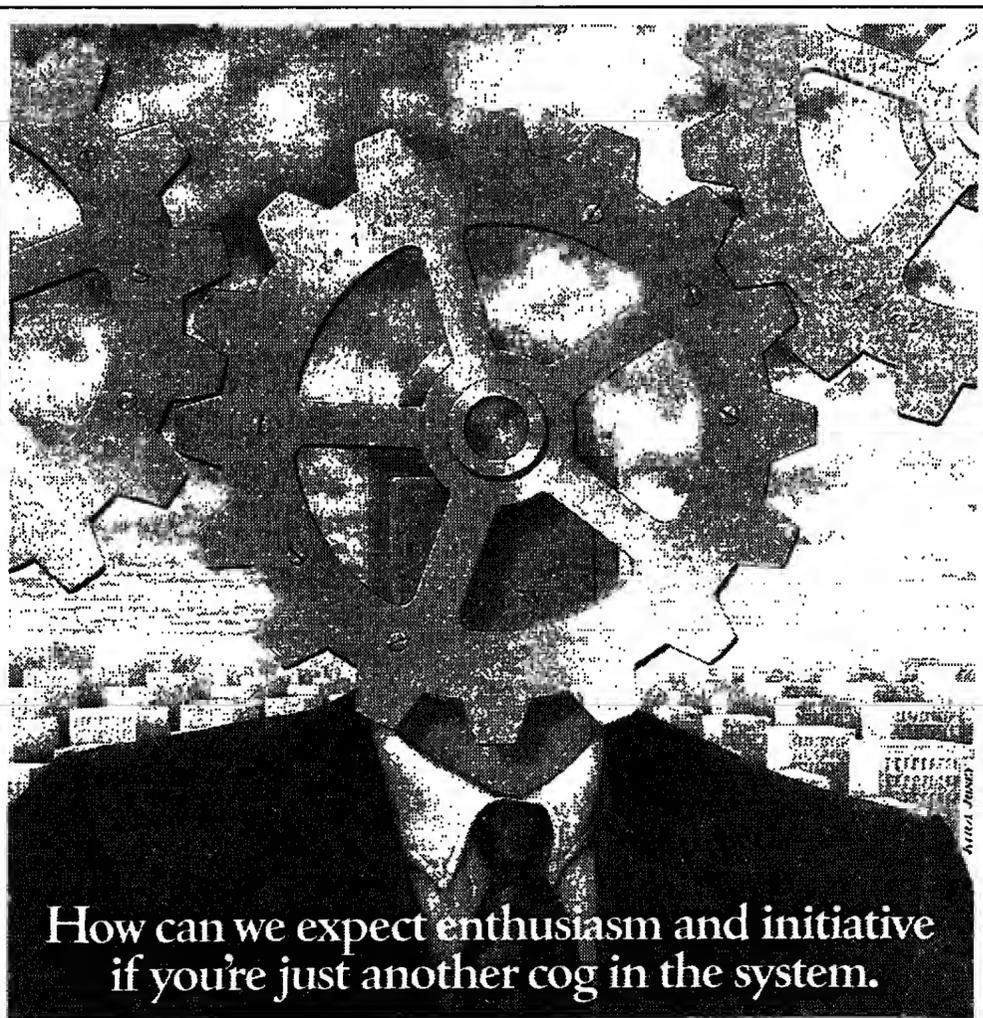
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COMPUTER HORIZONS/3

Person to person — at a price

Stephen Johnson



The telephone can be highly inefficient for the average business caller, according to research carried out by the US telecommunications company AT&T.

It is claimed that only one in four business calls is completed at the first attempt, while 60 per cent of incoming calls are less important than the work they interrupt.

Add to these frustrations the finding that in more than 50 per cent of internal company calls the information flow is one way, you quickly come up with an argument for sending voice messages.

Computerized voice messaging systems allow callers to create and send voice messages as an alternative to telephoning, writing memos or sending electronic text messages. The only equipment needed is a multi-frequency telephone or conventional telephone with a tone generator fitted to the mouthpiece.

The system may be linked to a private automatic branch exchange or a remote bureau service called up on public telephone lines.

Most voice messaging systems have editing facilities that allow the sender to skip back and forth as he creates the message and to replay it before distributing it to one or more destinations.

Electronic mail facilities, the text equivalent to voice messaging, are rapidly becoming standard in office automation packages. Suppliers are also realizing the value of voice as a component of office

information and workstations. The most advanced offerings are able to combine text, graphics and voice annotation in one message.

The attraction of voice messages, say its proponents, is that, like a telephone call, it allows the sender to communicate directly with the person for whom his information is intended, without fear of the message being lost or misinterpreted by a third party.

Only nine per cent of callers leave a complete message with a third party, says AT&T, with 46 per cent leaving name and number only because callers dislike talking to a third party.

The voice messaging system also has the big advantage of electronic mail — non-simultaneous communication — which allows a user to work

uninterrupted by the telephone, with messages accumulating in his mailbox until it is convenient to access.

On the other hand, we are still a paper-based society and text messages can appear more versatile than voice — because they can be printed out, carried around, viewed at a glance and can be incorporated with graphics and images cheaply.

The biggest disadvantage of voice messaging systems is cost. Voice messages, when digitized, need up to 320 times the computer storage of an electronic text message of similar length, with the cost of that storage pushing up the price of the systems. As disk storage drops in price, cheaper systems should appear.

In an effort to attract new users the major companies in

the market, such as Wang and Ferranti, are also introducing smaller, less expensive versions of existing voice messaging systems.

Ferranti's VM 100, for example, provides one-and-a-half hours of message time for £19,000. Wang has introduced a £40,000 version of its Digital Voice Exchange that supports four lines at any one time and has four hours of message storage. Wang's full-blown Digital Voice Exchange starts at £80,000 and gives simultaneous support for 16 users and 80 hours of storage.

Its suppliers say voice messaging is set to take off towards the end of this year, by which time there are likely to be a number of new companies in the field offering a wider variety of features.



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Talking the system language

By Nick Hampshire

The way has been cleared by British Telecom for a low cost phone-linked voice recognition and response application for the personal computer. Such computer-generated interactive voice recognition and response units — are known as voice messaging systems.

They have been available for several years but at a high price, £50,000-plus. The price breakthrough has enabled voice boards to be produced for as little as £1,000 and they can be controlled by an ordinary PC.

The first voice messaging system for PCs to gain BT approval comes from Voice Systems International. Other

manufacturers about to introduce them are IBM, Sperry, and Handic of Sweden. But it is unlikely that these low-cost voice response systems will be readily available from dealers because their installation and customization is complex.

The heart of a voice messaging system is the voice recognition unit. These are still fairly unsophisticated and in low-cost devices are rarely able to recognize more than 100 words.

This is not an enormous limitation since most applications will simply require a yes/no menu selection and probably the input of numeric values. The computer-generated voice response

will guide the inquirer through such an audio response menu to the required information.

Computer-generated stock inquiries and ordering from sales staff is an obvious application. Another is a voice mail system where the caller is identified by a personal and can play back any messages recorded on the system.

The availability of low-cost voice messaging systems could be of considerable interest to many sales and marketing departments. The low cost of voice input and output to a computer, compared with conventional remote video terminals, has led to voice messaging being dubbed audiotex in the US.

Time for the bells to ring in Britain

By David Hewson

Those whom the gods wish to destroy they fill with an uncontrollable urge to connect their computers to a telephone line. Communications is one of the most exciting and important areas in personal computing today.

But it is also a subject that is likely to drive even the most experienced user to unadmitted despair when he tries to perform the simplest of computing tasks over a British telephone line.

To discover what telephone and computers can do together one must cross the Atlantic or take the cheaper option of buying a sheaf of American computing magazines.

You will find that the Apple Macintosh in California can dial a private voice call while

you are working at the screen on something else, alerting you when it gets through. For £380 you can buy communications software and a modem, the device linking the computer to the telephone line, which will answer and send messages while the computer is otherwise engaged or even switched off. Both of these facilities are obvious uses for the computer which would be invaluable for many users.

But in Britain? You will find nothing remotely like them and there seems little prospect of these badly needed routines being introduced soon.

The state of Britain's telephone network, with its out-of-date switching equipment, is to blame for many of the delays. Many companies which are interested in the communications field also complain that British Telecom is slow to license new equipment to be used here, approval for which is necessary for a modem to be connected legally in Britain.

This complaint seems to be justified when one compares the speed with which most personal computers now communicate. In Britain the commonest modem speed is 300 baud, or 30 characters a second, which sounds a lot but, in reality, is far too slow for sending large amounts of information.

EVENTS

Amstrad Computer Show, New Century Hall, Manchester, March 22-23 (061-456 8835)

Info 86, Olympia, London, March 24-27 (01 647 1001)

Computer Aided Design and Manufacturing Exhibition, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, April 8-10.

Scottish Computer Show, Scottish Exhibition Centre, Glasgow, April 15-17 (01-891 5051)

Computing Recruitment Fair, Novotel, Hammersmith, London W6, April 18-19 (0853 858811)

Commodore Show, Novotel, Hammersmith, London W6, May 9-11 (061-456 8835)

Electron & BBC Show, New Horticultural Hall, Greycoats St, Westminster, London SW1, May 16-18 (061-456 8835)

Acorn User Exhibition, Barbican, London EC2, July 24-27 (01-349 4667)

Amstrad Computer Show, Novotel Hotel, Hammersmith, London W6, October 4-5 (061-456-8835)

OVERSEAS

Cebit 86, Hannover Fair Complex, West Germany, until tomorrow



This article alone would take nearly four minutes to transmit, with an extra couple of minutes needed to log on to the receiving computer.

In the US 2,400-band modems are now coming within the price range of personal micro users at half the cost of the equivalent in Britain. The quality gap is also obvious in software.

Users of the Epson PX-8 portable can now obtain free a piece of public domain software written in the US which far surpasses most commercial British programs. It can, for instance, tell you how long a file will take to transmit before you send it.

But it was designed to be used with the modem built into the machine when it was released in the US. The modem was removed for British versions forcing users to resort to acoustic couplers, push-on telephone cups that invariably fail to grip with Telecom's newer telephones.

British computer users tend to buy modems and communications software separately, which can lead to dreadful problems of incompatibility occasionally beyond resolution. If you do this you may also find that a good modem is coupled with mediocre software or vice versa, and that nothing else you can purchase will do the same job.

On a purely practical point, you can find yourself lumbered with a crackly telephone line which simply cannot offer the accuracy required of computer communications, though this, happily, is rather rare. Temporary glitches, which make computers drop lines after time, are, however, by no means uncommon.

One small step towards some common sense in British communications has been in the licensing of some modems which conform to what is

known as the Hayes standard, the commonest format in the US. This should mean that users will be able to use these devices, some of which are manufactured by the Hayes company with wide range of US software and not run the risk incompatibility (though this user will not believe it until he sees it).

It should also mean that British computer owners will no longer be expected to pay several hundred pounds for modems which cannot even dial a number for themselves.

Once you have got a working communications system, what do you do with it? The obvious answer is electronic mail, such as Telecom Gold, Easy Link, or One-to-One. This is cheaper than telex, though you can usually send telex messages if you wish and it is easier to use and more adaptable. But you need to know in advance to whom you are going to send your messages.

The systems do not offer directories of subscribers and initially one tends to wind up talking to the same people.

Computer enthusiasts are fond of bulletin boards which are tiny mail systems where you may swap information or programs. They tend to be run as hobbies and are specific to a machine, such as the IBM, the Mac or the BBC, and the wealth of free advice offered to the puzzled novice on them can be invaluable. But systems normally have only one telephone line and you may well find it is permanently engaged when you call.

Other facilities which can be tapped by a communicating computer include electronic libraries dealing with specialist subjects such as the law, the vast US fund of knowledge called The Source, Prestel, and even a share-buying service run by Hoare Govett. The field is a wide one. Entering it is the problem.

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FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT ON MANCHESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL/1

March 18, 1986

Managers of the new generation

Manchester Business School is one of two post-graduate business schools created in 1965 through the recommendation of a report prepared at the request of government and business representatives. One of these first-generation centres of management excellence was to be based in Manchester and integrated into the University of Manchester. The other, the London Business School, is part of the University of London. By their coming of age each establishment had evolved a distinctive identity. This personality stems partly from geographical differences - MBS occupies an austere premises in a major industrial centre, while the London Business School enjoys elegant surroundings on the edge of Regent's Park. Equally important are the differences in teaching methods which the two schools have developed during the ensuing 21 years in response to changing requirements. Since Dr Rab Telfer took over as director of MBS in September 1984 he has fielded attacks from Government seeking to cut costs and from industrialists worried about the calibre of their management recruits. He gets irritated by the assumption that all business schools are alike. "They are not homogenous," he says. "Each one is different with their own way of doing things. Equally, companies and their requirements vary. In our planning for the future, we've got to recognize the necessity for maintaining variety."

to nearer 50 in the last year and is set to rise to nearer 70 by the end of the decade. The next stage will be to seek increases in student numbers without reducing the stringent academic requirements. With the equivalent of 1,500 full-time students, Manchester already ranks among the largest of Britain's business schools but it nevertheless covers a tiny proportion of the country's total management population. The target is to double the overall number to around 3,000 by 1990. A proposal that government After 21 years, MBA has come of age and aims to double its number of students to 3,000 over the next five years. funds should be withdrawn and the business schools become totally self-funding is seen as having a serious effect on the supply of students for the full-time, two-year Master of Business Administration course. A few of the 200 or so young graduates who are studying for their MBA at Manchester get help from scholarships from companies like Continental Oil, Pilkington, Ford and Coleroll. Others borrow from banks for their course fees and living costs, but most rely heavily on government ESRC grants. Within the last 10 years, MBS has succeeded in shifting the balance of its funding away from government and on to industry. In 1975, three-quarters of its revenue was supplied by the state. Ten years later the proportion of

signed up for residential courses. A third area of competence is identified as information technology. A grant from IBM of £2 million worth of equipment strengthens an existing involvement in information technology. The grant involves collaboration with IBM in a joint project aimed at developing new approaches to teaching managers using computers. A fourth area of particular competence is small business development. With the backing of the Manpower Services Commission, MBS claims to have pioneered small business enterprise training in Europe. Expansion is, of course, dependent on demand. Being a prudent Scot - he was born in Bathgate and graduated from Edinburgh University - as well as a businessman, Dr Telfer began his appointment with a series of visits to chairmen, chief executives and board level staff of more than 100 major UK companies. The purpose was not only to explain the activities of the school, but also to learn about present and future needs of the market. Frankness during these visits was encouraged by Dr Telfer's own background. Before joining MBS he was chairman and managing director of Mather & Platt for three years. Before that he had worked for ICI for nearly 30 years and had shared the searing experiences of making recessionary cutbacks while chairman of the petrochemicals division. "Contrary to perceived wisdom," he says that he found most of the people had "a growing awareness of the importance of management development". "A lot of British companies realized rather late in the day that they did not have the calibre of managers they need-

ed to sort themselves out after the recessionary cutbacks. Chopping up companies and rationalizing them although painful and demoralizing is relatively easy. The difficult thing is the renewal of a company - deciding where it goes in the future and how it should get there. Whether the awareness of the need for management development is translated into "real positive action" as far as the business schools is concerned is, as Dr Telfer acknowledges, "another question." Certainly, MBS is currently experiencing a surge in demand for short programmes for practising managers. But to concentrate too much on this type of education, although lucrative, would, he believes, risk upsetting the balance of the school and ultimately probably not be in the best interests of "improving the management competence of the UK Limited".



Dr Rab Telfer: In his role as director, he has recognized the need to vary training to meet industry's growing requirements

Choosing the very best candidates

Stringent academic requirements are the legacy Manchester Business School has inherited as an organisation grafted on to an established university. Course directors pride themselves on seeking people with the highest intellectual and academic qualifications for the Master of Business Administration course. These are also subject to the same scrutiny from external examiners as are graduates in other, arguably better-defined disciplines. One reason MBS has been able to stick to rigorous entry requirements is that demand for outstrips supply. The school receives more than 6,000 enquiries a year but teaching and other facilities restrict it to around 1,500. About 200 are engaged on the full-time MBA programme. The rest may be participants in the part-time MBA courses - introduced in 1981; on one of the open development courses for practising executives; or working on an education programme tailored to a particular company's requirements such as those organised by the highly-successful International Banking Centre. A good first degree or an equivalent professional qualification is the starting point for candidates for the Master of Business Administration

Patricia Tisdall

Continued on page 30



We're right behind it.

IBM's 18,000 UK employees in their 45 locations are being encouraged to support the goals of Industry Year 1986. These are to increase public awareness of industry's vital role in society, to improve links between education and industry and also for industry itself to improve its relationship with the community. For example, IBM United Kingdom Limited is working on a

joint project with the Manchester Business School: a project aimed at developing new approaches to teaching management disciplines using information technology. It is a happy coincidence that 1986 is both Industry Year and the 21st anniversary of the Manchester Business School. Let's hope that everyone in Britain will believe this year is as important as we do.



Only the best should apply

Continued from page 29
programme. Participants are typically in their early twenties, with a year or so of work experience since leaving university (only about a third come straight from their first degree).

They are also highly motivated enough to be willing not only to drop their salaries but also to find the several thousands of pounds required for tuition fees and upkeep during the study period.

Cost was an important reason why Don Cruickshank (now managing director of the Virgin Group but then, in 1970, at the outset of his career with a wife and two young children to support) stayed in England to take his MBA rather than go to the United States. Mr Cruickshank was an obvious high flier—a graduate who had taken accountancy training and then spent four years manufacturing.

His reasons for wanting to take an MBA were to broaden his knowledge about different types of business, in particular the service industries, to learn about marketing and to widen his range of contacts. He also wanted to keep pace with his peer group, many of whom had American business school degrees.

Having checked out the London Business School as well as Manchester, he decided the English MBA course was just as effective as any US equivalent and probably more relevant. The reason for opting for Manchester (having been offered a place by both universities) was that he preferred Manchester's project based approach to LBS's case-study methods. He also liked Manchester's more relaxed course structure and the availability of options. "I had learned to manage my own time and did not need to be spoon fed," he says.

Teaching methods based on practical projects, which may involve students working with

a selection from up to 60 different companies, are a distinctive MBS feature. During their second year, students are required to tackle five projects, at least three of which are concerned with the problems of major companies.

In order to ensure an international dimension, students are required to take part in an international business project which requires them to exercise their fledgling skills in a foreign environment.

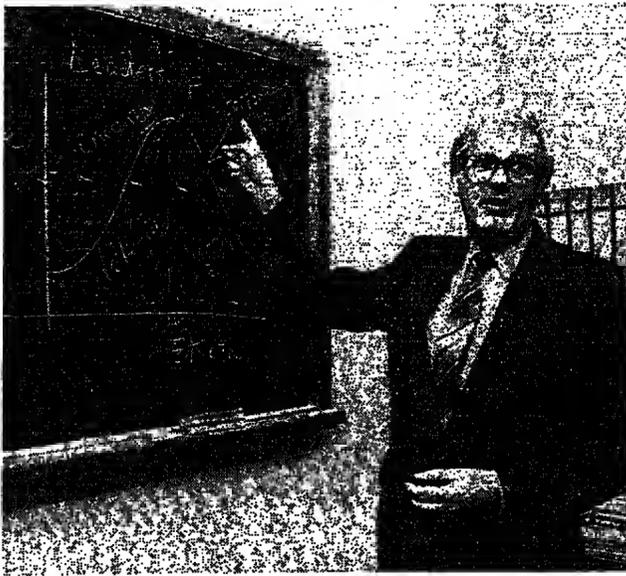
The emphasis on practical projects, which has been a characteristic of the Manchester Business School since its inception, undoubtedly reflects its location in a major industrial centre. But the engineering and research and development background of many of the early course designers, including that of Alan Pearson, the director of the MBA Programme, also played a part in developing the teaching methodology.

To be effective, projects need to be relevant and up to date. All the faculty staff in the Post Graduate Centre are encouraged to work directly with companies as consultants. This helps generate material which is fed back into the course programmes.

Students can either identify their own projects or work with Pearson and his team in choosing an appropriate area and selecting a company to work with on solving a particular problem.

Onus for assessing the effectiveness and quality of the project work rests with the faculty, although the opinions of the company concerned are usually taken into consideration.

Projects are intended to reflect real-life management challenges. Students who complain, for instance, that they have not been given sufficient information or that they have been hindered by unforeseen factors, are offered little sympathy. Assessment



Alan Pearson: His engineering background helped in developing the teaching methodology

relates more to the approach the students adopt and the methods they apply than to the result.

The full-time MBA Programme operates in two sections—the first year deals with teaching the basic concepts and theories while the second year is concerned with the in-depth study of selected subjects.

In the summer vacation preceding the second year, MBA students normally take a job in industry, commerce or government which will provide material for a 10,000 word dissertation. This is intended to provide a point of reference for future employment as well as a bridge between theory and practice.

Students wishing to take the full two-year course are required to reach a minimum standard in their first year examinations. A few drop out at this stage for various reasons, but most complete the programme. Typically, only 15 per cent of the initial participants do not go on to get their MBA or qualification—a

success rate which the course organisers attribute as much to care in selection as to sympathetic teaching.

It was feared initially that academic concessions might be needed for the part-time masters course for managers who do not want to take two years away from their jobs. But Alan Wilkinson, the director of the executive master's course, is more than satisfied with the performance of the 100 or so who have given up their Fridays to participate in the course so far.

The age spectrum is much wider than on the full-time MBA programme, ranging from 20's to mid-40's. Participants are practicing managers. "We suspect they learn as much from each other as they do from the faculty staff," says Mr Wilkinson.

Improvements in status, career performance and salary levels are tangible incentives for students to take their MBA degree. A survey of MBS graduates shows that more than 90 per cent of graduates

of more than ten years' standing are now working at senior management or board level. Critics of management education frequently observe that this and other surveys merely cover managers who would have reached the top of their career ladders, irrespective of taking an MBA.

Supporters of management education reply that the MBA programme helps to make good potential managers even better, particularly those who are working in an international environment. Subjective comments by graduates suggest that true advantages may be less tangible.

MBA graduates learn "maturity and self confidence in the ability to learn from mistakes," observed a tutor. "Learning to work with other people" is how one student described her experience. "The right approach to finding solutions to problems never encountered before," said another.

It's the mixing that broadens the mind

Working alongside participants from other companies is an important part of the shorter development courses which Manchester, like other business schools, runs for practising managers.

This is one of the reasons why the organizers usually insist that these courses are residential. It was also why Barrie Gardner stayed at the university when he took the 10-week executive development programme, even though his home was in Manchester.

The course is intended to develop managers typically aged between 25 and 40 in the middle of their career and

Bill Davies, the director of the executive development centre, who has been with MBS almost since the beginning, considers cross-fertilization to be even more important in today's environment than it was in the 1960s.

"There is much less mobility now than there was then," he says. The fact that managers change jobs less frequently and move between companies less can mean that they get stuck in a rut of prejudice or bad practice.

The 10-week course contains a blend of core programme activities—40 per cent—while projects and syndicate work occupy a further 40 per cent of time, and the remaining 20 per cent is allocated to optional subjects.

It is intended to be suitable both for the generalist who wants to deepen a particular part of his knowledge—finance or new technology—for instance—or for the specialist who wants exposure to other disciplines.

The 10-week executive development programme is one of two main courses operated by the centre. The other is the senior executive course. This is a three-week programme intended, as its name suggests, for managers who are at or near board level. It runs twice yearly and has consistently attracted capacity bookings.

A third category introduced in January 1985 consists of tailor-made courses designed for individual companies. These do not have the advantage of cross-fertilization as all the participants work for the same organization. Nevertheless, they have proved extremely popular. Recent clients for such programmes include Marks & Spencer, British Rail, British Nuclear Fuels and Kellogg.

As in-company courses are confidential to every client, the case studies used in it can be real material drawn from the company's own files which

helps to make the information more relevant to the students. Another advantage of a group of managers from the same company attending such a course is that they then share the same background and understanding. This means that when they go back, they are in a good position to put what they have learnt into action.

Manchester Business School is particularly pleased to list Marks & Spencer among its clients. "We have made a specific effort to develop our position in the retailing industry," says Derek Channon, director of the centre for business research. "We

'We research the organization first'

believe we have a great deal to offer there. When we are designing a course for an organization we will actively research the organization and the market it is operating in before we start."

What do companies think about the courses? Coloroll, the Lancashire-based wallpaper and furnishing manufacturer, whose sales have grown almost tenfold from £6.5m in 1978, became closely involved with MBS two years ago as part of what John Ashcroft, the chairman, describes as a "realistic appraisal of future management requirements."

Primarily, the association was seen as an aid to recruitment through getting the company known among bright young managers. But in the process, it has also seen the value of the business schools in the national economy.

It regards Manchester Business School as a centre of excellence—as part of the company's own local environment it was also the obvious choice—and is prepared to back its principles with tangible support.

Congratulations to Manchester Business School on its 21st Anniversary

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A wide-open world for the students

The "Manchester Method" evolved. MBS is quite simple: learning by doing. It is this practical approach which the teachers and the taught alike believe puts the School head and shoulders above the rest.

One way this is achieved is by giving course participants as much opportunity to see how the other half live and work as often as possible.

On-the-ground experience is a key-point especially for second year MBA students, 20 per cent of whom are women, a ratio which rises every year.

The International Business Project involves students working with companies on their problems on an international scale.

Usually this means exploring overseas markets and international financing and management, acquisitions and joint venture opportunities have all provided valuable contacts and experience for some of the North American projects.

In total, the students last year handled 18 projects involving field work in 38 different countries, and in the past ten years over 150 different studies have been made.

The opportunity to travel, especially on the student exchange programme, appealed to second year student Liz Birkby, aged 27.

She comes from Woking, Surrey, and her obvious first choice to "widen my experience," as she said, was at London BS.

She said: "But I discovered they were too financial orientated and I wanted to get some

real experience. Here at Manchester there is much more project and practical-orientated work. The opportunity to travel and the student exchange programme are really excellent opportunities."

The exchange programme operates mainly between New York University, McGill in Canada, the ISA in France, IESE in Spain and the School of Economics in Helsinki.

First year student Adrian Costain, aged 25, also favours the travel opportunities, although he has already extensively travelled the globe in his previous pursuit of nautical studies.

He is sponsored at MBS by Cammel Laird Shipbuilders whom he joined as a graduate management trainee, and to where he will return after completing his course.

He also considered London BS but said: "I took a straw poll among all my contacts in industry and they all said Manchester, definitely Manchester."

Londoner Keven Keane, aged 27, is also a much travelled first year student having had all his money stolen in Venezuela and, later, meeting a girl in New Zealand he hopes to marry.

He said: "I believe Manchester will give me all I seek to be a good entrepreneur. Eventually I want to find a small group of people and we will do things. We will create wealth, not just for ourselves but for other people."

Another potential success for the "Manchester Method."

Malcolm Long

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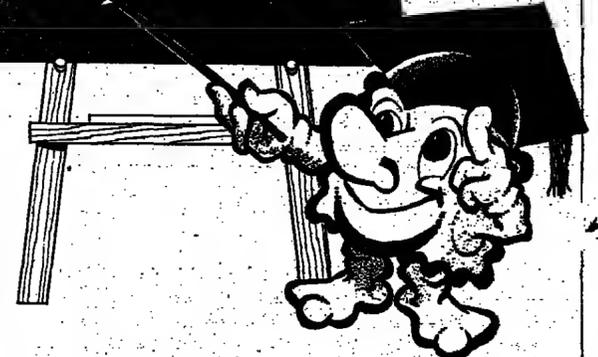
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Computer success: Professor Geoffrey Lockett, above, who won a national competition run by IBM, and a group of businessmen at a seminar run by the MBS

The vital role of continuing research

Research is the lifeblood of the MBS. Professor Geoffrey Lockett, Director of Studies of the doctoral programme, believes it is vital in any organization: "Look at the top companies such as ICI or IBM. They've made their name through research," he said.

He is also alert to the ever-changing face of across-the-board business administration resulting in the ever-changing face of research into it, and also to the vital role of the computer in this area.

It was through Professor Lockett and a group of his colleagues that MBS is now better off to the tune of a £2 million computer package, including two IBM personnel seconded to the school along with two programmers.

The bonus came as a result of a competition launched nationally by IBM. The professor and his team had to beat off 20 other major challengers to win the prize.

The school's link as a faculty of the University of Manchester is all important for the research programme. It is likely that the computer project will involve the departments of accounting and management science at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.

MBS's position within the university's embrace is even more vital on a wider front as they have to draw on a vast range of disciplines such as economics, sociology, psy-

chology, engineering and mathematics.

Basically, the school's aim is to make a major contribution to solving the managerial and business problems facing the UK.

This means a long-term research focus while not neglecting immediate issues. It requires development of new ideas, concepts and communication forms, and translation of these into effective teaching and research.

Prof. Lockett, who is also professor of Management Science and an associate director of the School, says MBS has become well known for research in organizational behaviour and design, computers and management, and corporate strategy. The school is putting extra resources into the management of information technology, finance, retailing, banking and strategic marketing areas.

He himself has carried out research and consultancy in a wide variety of industries and organizations, including chemical, pharmaceutical, engineering, food processing and consumer goods. He also is editor of the Journal of Management.

Prof. Lockett believes that research as a whole can only begin with frank, open and honest debate. He said: "Unless I upset someone at some stage on my course, he shouldn't be there in the first place."

Under the umbrella of re-

search units come five major headings:

- **Computer and Work Design**, Director, Enid Mumford. Professor of Organizational Behaviour. It is her task to advise on the introduction of the computer in factories and offices so that people will neither fear it nor be ignorant of its full potential.
- The research of the unit has been primarily concerned with the design and implementation of computer-based systems and has covered the design of office systems, telecommunication, video conferencing and managerial expert systems.
- Prof. Mumford believes a major problem for some managements is that they equip their offices with the latest computer systems without

really knowing how to use it properly.

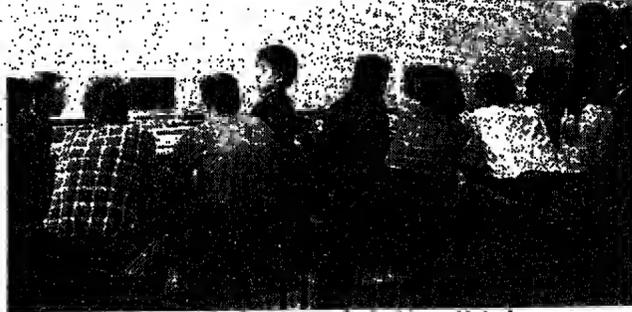
- **Centre for Business Research**, Director, Prof. Derek Channon. The CBR has evolved as a significant producer of marketing and strategic studies of particular industries which focus upon specific markets and sectors, and provide timely but practical analyses for management and others.
- Especially important has been the development of a series of sector studies in retailing and the distributive trades. It has helped to re-establish a former interest of MBS in retailing, and has been a useful spearhead in the school's rapid build-up of teaching programmes in the area.
- The CBR has also continued to undertake new research

in specific areas of the banking industry in conjunction with the International Banking Centre as well as producing a regular series of market position studies.

- **Research and Development**, Director, Dr Alan Pearson is currently involved in several but interlinked areas of activity.
- First, there is the work to provide a framework in which R and D personnel can exchange views about current thinking in areas related to their present and future job situation. Then it is to encourage a critical analysis of the trends in management and in the environment which are likely to influence particular groups of people in the R and D function.
- A further aim is to show how scientific and technical

developments can be more closely matched with market and user needs to increase the success rate of new product development and new ventures.

- **Creativity and Innovation Group** where they carry out research into the nature of creativity and industrial innovation. Dr Tudor Rickards, as co-ordinator, has specialized in working jointly with innovation problems, or "action research" as it is known.
- Other work includes the extension of the "Ideas Sounding Board" project. This arose from a £10,000 prize awarded by Phillips and Drew for the conception of a scheme to raise awareness of factors influencing the implementation of ideas.
- **Financial Control Research Institute**, a body formed in 1981 by a group of financial directors and senior managers to improve the quality of financial planning and control procedures in the UK.
- It was agreed that the school should provide a "home" for the institute and undertake the research while the financial managers would give the lead to deciding research topics, so combining the benefits of an academic approach with commerce.
- The institute also provides a forum for senior financial managers to share experiences and ideas in a non-competitive environment.



Students get on-hands experience of technology used in business

Extel Statistical Services, who provide the Manchester Business School with computerised and printed company information services, congratulate the School on its 21st birthday and wish it a long and successful future.

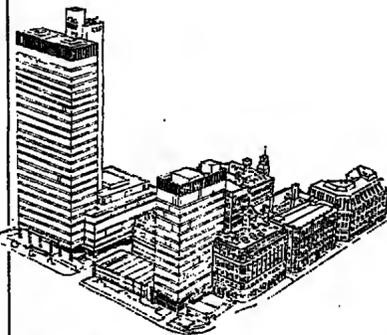
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Challenge of learning a new language

The last halting and ill-pronounced words spoken in French by many a middle-aged businessman were probably something like "au revoir" on the day he left school.

For such a man to present himself today at the MBS Language Learning Centre with the request to learn sufficient French to negotiate a contract to build a power plant to Grenoble is no rare occurrence. Nor would it come as a surprise if he added the rider that he wanted to know enough for the job "by Monday morning."

Those are exactly the "reasons d'être" for the existence of the Centre at MBS, the only business school in the country to run such specialized in-house language courses.

Mr Michael Woodhall, a published translator who has lectured in German at two British polytechnics and organized courses in six languages at the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Lyon, is Director of the Centre.

He explained how four basic questions are asked of candidates for this course which even caters for hyperactive businessmen by starting at 8am.

They are: What is the language needed? Who needs it, perhaps the marketing manager or even a complete team of salesmen? When is it needed? and what level is required, just basic courtesy phrases, or sufficient to understand a specialized report, or enough technical jargon to tender for a contract in Japan?

One question which presents no problem at all is "what language?" All the routine European languages, such as French, German, Italian and Spanish are regularly taught, and other courses available on demand include Dutch, Danish, Chinese, Arabic, Greek, Portuguese or Serbo-Croat.

All the LLC staff are "working linguists" rather than academics. They have all lived and worked extensively

abroad, from Europe to the Far East, and most have a business background.

One is a former production manager, another an accountant and a third an industrial relations specialist. The importance of this is that they understand the language of business, the concepts and problems that companies face and can readily relay it to a willing pupil.

Mr Woodhall's assistant director, Mr Howard Ward, worked for Michelin Tyres in the personnel and commercial development departments in France, Ireland and England before taking up his MBS post.

He also spent six months during 1984/85 teaching English at a new business school set up in Beijing, a joint enterprise between the Chinese State Economic Commission and the EEC.

This venture by the school into the Far East was so successful that the Chinese connection has once again been forged by the LLC this year, starting in September, with Mr Ward in charge for the second time. The six-month course is in study skills to improve linguistic and study capabilities in English.

Mr Woodhall will also be heavily involved. He said: "We thought that this time it would go to a European school on a rotational basis, but obviously they were impressed sufficiently with our efforts last time."

He stressed that courses at the LLC are available at all levels, from absolute beginners to the more advanced who merely want to put some top-spin on their current knowledge before venturing abroad.

Most of the students he receives have the "I was never any good at languages at school" syndrome.

But the experience of Mr Woodhall and his staff is that it does not take long to eliminate that attitude. As he said, it only needs a bit of pliancy language.



On screen: The school's audio visual department

As in life, the best things in business sometimes happen by accident. The origins of the International Banking Centre at Manchester Business School are said to be the result of an accident of timing of an introduction of the MBS philosophy to Barclays International.

The introduction, so legend has it, was made by Professor Sir Douglas Hague, then chairman of the Price Commission and a Northerner with long-standing connections with Manchester University and the Business School. It came at the point when the bank felt it needed outside help to transfer expertise out of its traditional Caribbean and African (and in particular Nigerian) markets and into the oil-rich Middle East, the Far East, Australasia, South America and Europe.

The centre's first banking course was run at Manchester in 1973. The objective was to start converting returning expatriates from operating a domestic banking service to a developing country to international corporate banking in a developed economy.

The programmes initially lasted 17 weeks and were later reduced to 13 weeks, running for seven years at a rate of two

courses a year. Phase one took place at Manchester, phases two, three and four were based at the bank's London headquarters with project teams and individuals moving around the country and overseas as necessary during phases three and four.

Dr James Byrne, director of the IBC, is a little defensive about the existence of an international banking centre based at Manchester when the logical site should be in London. In fact, one of the strengths of the centre from the start has been its willingness to adjust locations as well as content of courses.

Course material is confidential to the banks concerned and examples are drawn from real-life case studies. This can be a big help in teaching bankers when they should and when they shouldn't allow credit and other judgmental skills. It also has the advantage in allowing course members to try out new ideas while still under supervision and without necessarily incurring the full penalties of getting it wrong first time.

Some of the background research and market informa-

Sound business from sound ideas

The word "unemployment" is not one which rates very highly in the vocabulary of Dr Peter Chisnall. His role at MBS is, after all, to make people with sufficient "get up and go" to do just that.

Dr Chisnall is director of the Small Business Development Unit (SBDU), a department which thrives on a string of success stories equal to anywhere else in the school.

The main aims of the SBDU are twofold - to help fledgling entrepreneurs put sound propositions into viable reality and to develop tailor-made programmes for small and medium-sized firms which have come to a full stop after a few years' trading. Dr Chisnall and his team help them to become bigger, better - and wealthier.

In order to reflect more accurately the aims and ideals of the department, its name was changed last year to SBDU from New Enterprise Centre.

Since then, Dr Chisnall has helped many people up the ladder of commercial success. Such as the man who wanted to start a do-it-yourself garage; another who has established a home for the aged; a woman who now manages a highly recommended ethnic food centre; the Irishman who is flourishing with his natural yogurt and quality ice-cream centre; the man who is boss of his own security firm which guards commercial properties; and the man who is planning

to open up his very own drift mine with the enthusiastic support of the CEGB. Dr Chisnall said: "We're not interested in the bucket and ladder man. But if someone comes up to us with what appears to be a sound idea with growth potential, employing up to 20 people within 18 months to two years, then we're in business."

At present, three experimental programmes are running in the SBDU: Business Opportunities Programme (BOP), Firm Start (FS) and Tools for Growth (TFG).

BOP covers 18 weeks, takes between 11 to 18 participants and involves 10 non-residential teaching days. In addition, unemployed participants who are mature, experienced executives are attached to small "host" companies in order to provide specific help.

This also gives them an opportunity to exercise their management skills while they are seeking career employment which, in some cases, may well arise from working closely with the companies they are attached to over the three-month period.

Dr Chisnall is proud of his 90 per cent-plus success rate of placing executives, redundant or otherwise out of work, in new and remunerative employment. BOP is funded by the regional office of the Manpower Services Commission.

FS is an experimental scheme which has 18 participants and runs over 52 weeks. It is funded nationally by the MSC and promoted by Greater Manchester Economic Development Corporation. It provides a framework within which individuals or prospective business partners seeking to start a new business, or develop one which is in its early stages, can test the feasibility of their ideas.

Each programme caters for both men and women who learn not only from experienced MBS faculty and outside experts, but also from one another.

TFG is another pilot programme covering a three-year period during which three courses a year will be run, covering a total of 100 participants. The target market is defined as the top management of developing and established small and medium-sized firms, and the course is funded by GMEDC and the European Social Fund.

One of the main lessons it teaches is the management of money and cash flow and, more importantly, where to get it when you have not got it.

In general, MBS is actively seeking the co-operation of large corporations in enterprise training and hopes to extend its activities significantly.

ML

The centre to bank the future on

It has just completed a two-year contract to set up and manage an education programme for a Kuwaiti bank, which involved the design, set-up, running and handing over of an entire training department.

Future plans, starting this year, involve diversification into other types of financial service - notably insurance companies and building societies.

First stage of the expansion is an international conference due to be held in London in June which is being organized jointly with the Strategic Man-

agement Society. The objective is to provide a forum for academicians, practitioners and consultants to exchange views on appropriate strategic responses to new developments and to speculate on future trends. The call for papers covers topics far outside strict banking definitions.

"Boundaries between banking and other activities in the financial sector are breaking down because of developments in technology, deregulation and the internationalization of financial markets," says Dr Byrne.

"Banking is changing, bankers need to change, too, and external educational institutions can be key change agents."

When IBC started in 1973, the banking industry was at the start of a decade of explosive international growth in volume of activity fuelled by the growth in Euro-

markets, with correspondingly massive training requirements. That particular phase of development has ended and is now being replaced by a no less explosive growth in complexity of activity, fuelled by rapid changes in technology, by deregulation, by interna-

tionism of markets and by increasing uncertainty about the meaning of the term "banking."

Most large banks have substantial internal training and management development functions as well as excellent residential accommodation for running courses. So why should they use an outsider?

Over the years, the IBC has developed a set of justifications for the service it provides and it falls into two general categories: educational and logistic.

On the educational front, the centre maintains it can provide a quality of teaching at "senior" levels which is probably better than that provided by a single internal department preoccupied with teaching lower level skills and basic analysis training.

Judgmental lessons, in particular, may be difficult to get across effectively, where course members are more senior than internal management development staff.

Although it does run some "open" courses, the main work of the centre is in operating closely with individual companies where it looks for endorsement and support from top management.

PT



In session: An MBA discussion group

Engineering Tomorrow's World

Through its hand-in-hand relationship with the Manchester Business School, BICC is developing a new generation of management with the skills, knowledge and confidence that will secure the company's role in the future.

BICC is one of Britain's major engineering enterprises, with a success record that spans every continent.

This could not have been achieved without strong, effective management. But where does the search for people with the right potential begin? It starts in the schools, technical colleges, universities and business schools.

For example, we've an established policy of recruiting MBA graduates from the Manchester Business School. In that way, we can ensure bringing in people of the right calibre and background.

More far-reaching still, the School developed a two-week Senior Executive Programme tailored to our needs. This successful element of our management development scheme, attended by senior BICC managers from all corners of the world, has been an exclusive feature at the School for four years.

By taking a planned approach to management development, we believe that we can continue to build on our success in a range of activities that encompass every field of industrial technology. From mining to telecommunications. From construction to electronics. From aerospace to shipbuilding.

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Candidates must have gained relevant experience in a commercial environment. Personal qualities should include a high degree of motivation, above average communication skills and the ability to work independently. Previous employment with a European or U.S. multinational in the high-tech sector is desirable but not essential.

A salary of c. £20,000 together with a generous benefits package and a superior working environment will be offered to the right candidate. Relocation expenses will be met where appropriate.

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Due to continued expansion we have the following vacancies for applicants with a good academic record, enthusiasm and a willingness to work hard.

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There are a number of positions for litigation solicitors of 2 years or more experience. The workload is interesting and varied with an emphasis on insurance and reinsurance matters. The successful applicant will be capable of handling a caseload without supervision and working as a member of a team.

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COMMERCIAL CONVEYANCING

There are openings for senior and junior commercial conveyancers. The workload involves substantial transactions which are varied and demanding. For the senior position the successful applicant will be capable of handling a series of transactions without supervision. On occasions it will be necessary for the successful applicant to work as part of a team.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

Due to the continued expansion of our Company Commercial Department we now require a further experienced assistant solicitor to undertake a variety of work. The workload is interesting and demanding involving both public and private companies. Applicants will be considered from recently qualified solicitors or those about to qualify.

The successful applicants will receive a remuneration package which we believe to be above average in addition to which, there are excellent career prospects in a rapidly expanding firm.

If you are interested in any of the above positions, please send a full CV to:

Davies, Arnold & Cooper,
12, Bridewell Place, London EC4V 6AD,
marked for the Attention of
Simon Pearl for the Litigation Posts,
Anthony Harris for the Conveyancing Post,
and Andrew Britton for the Company/Commercial post.

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As a major City firm, we have a continuing need in our Company Department for able and energetic solicitors with good academic records and with some qualified experience.

The rewards, professionally and financially, are attractive.

Applications with full personal and professional details should be sent to Mrs. E. R. Trew, Personnel Manager

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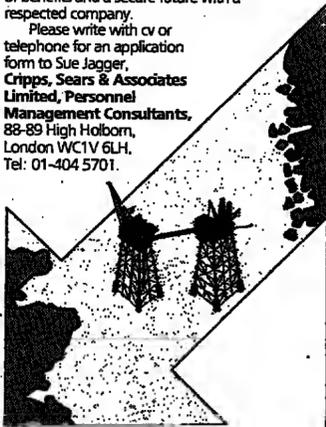
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INFOBANK

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Mirror Group Newspapers

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SPORT

Form of Hateley and Wilkins is tonic for Robson in his World Cup preparations

Italian heroes, English tonic

From David Miller, Milan

Draped from the upper tier of the San Siro stadium at the home matches of AC Milan are several Union Jacks...

and they are both quick and mobile. Hateley is intimidating and difficult to handle in any circumstance...

Juventus of his time, he added, would have put four goals past the team which will play Barcelona in the European Cup tomorrow.

Certainly Hateley is no Charles: he is not a natural footballer. But the specialist virtues which he does have can cause panic to any defence in Mexico...

Those goals, making him the club's top scorer with seven, will do him no harm when Hateley negotiates...

What was especially significant about Hateley's goals on Sunday was his speed of thought and reaction. The first, from a centre from the left...

Hateley's comment is that the difference playing for Milan compared with England is that Milan break much more quickly, which gives markers less time to turn and necessitated a sweeper. The essential decision which Robson has to make for the partnership is whether to use a conventional style winger...

Nor will the goals do any harm to England's ailing World Cup prospects. Bobby Robson was yesterday delighted with the news of Hateley's return...

The second, judged to perfection, came as Hateley, having drifted to the right of the penalty area, came back across the face of the defence to meet a cross from Evans...

Also heartening was the authority of Wilkins. Playing for his club, he has a much freer role than with England, regularly moving forward into attack. His function in the World Cup team must surely be as the midfield pivot...

As Robson said yesterday: "They're potentially an ideal blend. Hateley is left-footed and Lineker is right-footed...

A short while ago, John Charles, still feted in Turin for his treasured days as centre-forward of Juventus, tried to say inoffensively, when asked if Hateley was as good as he, that it was unreasonable to make a comparison. The



Looking to Mexico; Wilkins (left) and Hateley hope to take their Italian form with them.

Shy Wen finds Russians a trial

From Michael Coleman, Geneva

To Wen Chong Yang's dismay, he was given the same training room as the Russians during preparations for the world figure skating championships here.

For Taiwan's top representative, this was like being asked to share a room with someone with Lend, McEnroe and Becker. But instead of Lend, Wen had on court with him Alexander Fadeyev, the world champion capable of stunning two triple jumps together...

His legs began to freeze like the ice under his blades, his athletic motors seized up, his will to compete melted away. Isolated out there on that huge 60 metre by 30 metre ice rink in the Vernets stadium he felt like a mouse on a football field.

What he had to offer, in Wen's view, seemed so puny, so insignificant compared to these ice-driving Soviets leaping and spinning like tops all round him that the only honourable thing to do was head for the nearest exit.

Urgent calls from his trainer and others at rinkside to go through the motions when his turn was called and the music played fell on deaf ears. But he had travelled 12,000 miles to get on a real ice rink. It was his big chance. He was, strictly speaking, that kind of the rink where his colleagues were. He managed a possible double toe loop, got through a ragged single Axel and ended with a flourish at a flying sit spin.

Imran says tour will go on despite incidents

Colombo (Reuter) - Imran Khan, the Pakistan captain, said yesterday that the tour of Sri Lanka would continue despite an earlier decision by his players to abandon it because of abuse and alleged threats to their lives.

He told reporters they had decided yesterday, the rest day in the second Test match, to quit the tour. He said the standard of umpiring in the two Test matches had led to a deterioration in relations between the two sides and on-the-field incidents which had brought threats and abuse from spectators.

However, in the larger interests of the game and after assurances from the president of the Sri Lanka cricket board, we have prevailed on the boys to continue with the tour, Imran said.

SCORES: Pakistan 132 (K Karunaratne 5 for 44) and 154 for 9 (Wasim Akram 52, J R Ranjitha 5 for 27); Sri Lanka 273 (A Ranjitha 77, BOWLING: Imran 27-5-79-2, Akram 23.9-9-57-4; Kamal 14-0-50-2; Madusara 14-2-36-1; Tausse 11-2-40-4; Salim 2-0-2-0).

The Warwickshire wicket-keeper, Geoff Humphrey, is to have a benefit in 1987.

N Zealand overcome Australia

Auckland (Reuter) - New Zealand defeated Australia by eight wickets in the final Test match at Eden Park yesterday to win the three-Test series 1-0. It was only their second success in a series against Australia and enabled them to retain the Trans-Tasman Trophy they won when they beat Australia 2-1 in Australia at the end of last year.

Wright, 46 not out overnight, went on to his fifty in 195 minutes, hitting five fours, but was out for 39 shortly after completing a century partnership with Rutherford for the second wicket.

Rutherford was at the centre of an incident yesterday when he was adjudged caught at the wicket by Zoehrer off Waugh for 18 when the total was 62. The umpire, Roger McLaren, gave Rutherford not out after consulting his colleague, Steve Woodward, at square leg, but the Australian captain, Allan Border, recalled Rutherford, when Zoehrer admitted that the ball had hit the ground first.

In the absence of Greenidge, Haynes and Marshall the last four days might have been expected to throw up some exciting new talent from this great nursery of brilliant bats-

French lends England a touch of class

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Bridgetown

Midway through the last afternoon Barbados, needing 267 to record their third victory since the war over an England touring side, were 152 for four. There have been times over the last 20 years when they could lay claim to being the strongest provincial side in the world. India would certainly support that, having lost three of their last four matches.

England were going to have to bowl decently to win. The outfield was very fast, the pitch had little run in it and an awkward bounce only for bowlers faster than those at Willey's command. It had the makings of a good day's cricket, and there was a nice breeze to keep the palm trees on the move. The first wicket, after 40 minutes' play, went to Taylor, who managed to extract a leg-before decision from two decidedly obtuse umpires.

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Age of Riessen

Dallas (Reuter) - Marty Riessen has been named coach of the US Federation Cup and Wightman Cup teams.

Riessen is boosted by the news that Martina Navratilova, a former citizen of Czechoslovakia, has agreed to play the Federation Cup for the US in Prague in July.

Waiting game

England are still awaiting official confirmation that next week's World Cup warm-up game with Russia is on. The Foreign Office has told the Rugby Association that the weekend Tass report confirming the game was on was "almost certainly correct" but there has still been no official word. England are insisting that the party fly back from Tbilisi without a stop-over in Moscow.

Operation hint

Manchester United are delaying a decision about whether Bryan Robson, the England captain, should have an operation on the shoulder he has dislocated twice. Amid growing pressure for immediate surgery, his manager, Ron Atkinson, said: "We will have to see if there is any way both parties can get satisfaction."

Gone west

The west stand at Northampton's county cricket ground is to be replaced before the start of the new season after being declared a fire risk.

Clearing the air

Nora Perry and Martin Dew, the two leading figures in the controversial players' petition to remove the England manager, Jake Downey, seem certain to be asked if they will accompany the squad to the Thomas and Uber Cup world championships in Jakarta next month.

The optimism was contained in statements yesterday after a meeting of players, Mr Downey and the Badminton Association chief executive, Air Vice-Marshal Larry Lamb.

New chairman

Duncan Fearnley, the cricket bat-maker, is to be the new chairman of Worcestershire. Fearnley, born in Yorkshire, played for Worcestershire when they won their first county championship in 1964

Neck injury will not stop Melville

Nigel Melville will not play again this season after sustaining a neck injury in France on Saturday, but the neurologist who examined him said that he need not retire from the sport. Melville, the England captain, returned from Paris after receiving his second neck injury in 30 months.

He said yesterday: "I went to see a neurologist in Newcastle and he said that there was no reason to retire because of my recurring neck trouble. I am obviously depressed about these constant injuries. I hope that some sunshine and other sporting activities during the summer will improve my physical condition and my mood and that I will pick up my career next September."

Open Games plan under Eastern fire

Berlin (AP) - East Germany and the Soviet Union have denounced plans to open the Olympic Games to professional athletes, the West German sports news agency SID reported yesterday.

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FAST LOANS advertisement with details of loan amounts, terms, and contact information for Cavendish Finance.

Navratilova wins again

Dallas (Reuter) - Martina Navratilova overwhelmed Chris Lloyd 6-2, 6-1 in the final round of the \$250,000 Virginia Slims women's tournament in Dallas, her seventh title in eight years. The 59-minute victory earned Miss Navratilova \$40,000 with Mrs Lloyd taking \$20,000. The top-seeded Miss Navratilova broke Mrs Lloyd's serve in the first game, breezed through the opening set and then broke serve again in the first game of the second set.

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